



S<sup>R</sup> KESHUB CHUNDER SEN

U RAY & SONS,  
100 Esplanade Road, Calcutta

THE  
MINISTER'S PRAYERS.

PART I.

*FOURTH EDITION.*

REVISED AND ENLARGED.

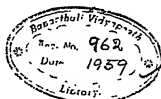
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TWELVE prayers prepared by our revered Minister Keshub Chunder Sen first appeared in 1861 under the title of "THE THEIST'S PRAYER BOOK." The Book was reprinted in 1864 and 1870 in India, and in 1900 in England. Another booklet entitled the "HANDBOOK OF THEISTIC DEVOTION" published by the Indian Mirror Press appeared in 1878. It comprised seventy-five prayers taken indiscriminately from the "Sunday Mirror" of 1876, 1877 and 1878.

Both the "THEIST'S PRAYER BOOK" and the "HANDBOOK OF THEISTIC DEVOTION" were later incorporated in a volume called "THE MINISTER'S PRAYERS" of which the third edition appeared in 1900 under the auspices of the Brahmo Tract Society. The combined volume, with its one hundred and sixty-four prayers printed without any strict chronological order, contained an additional number of prayers from the "Sunday Mirror" of 1876, 1877, 1878 and 1879, and the "New Dispensation" of 1883.

As a result of the impetus given by the *Nava-vidhan Samgha* at Lucknow to the publication of all the works, published or unpublished, of Minister Keshub Chunder Sen, it has been decided to undertake the collection of all his devotional utterances to be found in the old journals and periodicals and to print them in a convenient form. The present enlarged edition of the Prayers is one product of such an effort. We make no change in the text of the book, although there have been some alterations in it here and there a few prayers whose

cannot be definitely ascribed to Keshub and which are rather difficult now to separate from the rest. The first thirteen pages represent the "THEIST'S PRAYER BOOK", and are followed by prayers culled from the "DEVOTIONAL" section of the "Sunday Mirror". Their dates begin from June 27, 1875 and lead up to March 3, 1878. March 6, 1878 was the date of the Cooch Behar Marriage. It may be observed here that any one who reads the prayers of Keshub before the Marriage and contrasts them with those that followed it will mark a new fervour and pathos in the latter. The present volume is, therefore, made to cover a period of about three years prior to Cooch Behar Marriage. The prayers are arranged in order of chronology with omissions where particular issues of the "Sunday Mirror" were not available, or where the issues did not contain any prayers. A few again recovered while the book was in the Press have been inserted between the end of the year 1877 and the beginning of the year 1878. These insertions which are distinguished by a larger intervening space and cover pages, 211 to 217 are the following:—1876,—December 31; 1877,—January 7, 21, and 28 and February 4. Of the missing numbers of the "Sunday Mirror" not yet recovered are:—1876,—January 2; 1877,—January 14, February 11, June 3 and October 7. The numbers not containing any prayers are:—1876,—February 6, April 16, May 7, 14 and 28, August 27 and December 3 and 17; 1877,—September 2 and 11; 1878,—February 24, and March 10. This detailed list is given in the hope that friends and readers will help in finding the missing issues so that they can be included in a future edition.

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## PRAYERS.

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### MORNING PRAYER.

**G**MERCIFUL Father, whose benevolent providence has protected me during the defenceless hours of sleep, accept my morning tribute of prayer and praise. I thank Thee that Thy loving-kindness has enabled me to enter upon the duties of another day with renewed energies and spirits. All things proclaim Thy glorious providence, and Thine infinite goodness unto us. Before I go forth to the labours and enjoyments of the day, I would place my whole trust in Thy guidance, and consecrate the energies of my body and mind to Thee.

Strengthen and prepare me for the trials which await me this day. May Thy counsel regulate my mind, may Thy love warm my heart, and may Thy sacred presence go with me as the light in my paths. Curb each impure desire, restrain each worldly craving, and sanctify all my aspirations and feelings by leading them to Thee. Make me prompt and faithful in the discharge of my various duties, and in all my intercourses with the world keep my conscience void of uncleanness. Grant that temptations may not shake my fidelity to Thee; grant that, amidst all the vicissitudes of life, I may cleave to Thee firmly. Teach me to remember that to attain Thee is the sole destiny of life; and help me to spend the precious hours of this day and all days accordingly. Do Thou, O Everlasting Father and Friend, enable me to grow continually in purity and faith, that each day may find me nearer to Thee.

## EVENING PRAYER.

**A**PPROACH Thee, O Lord my God, with humble thanksgivings for the manifold mercies which Thou hast showered on me this day. Each joy that I have experienced, each desire that has been gratified, each breath I have inhaled speaks of Thy goodness and calls forth my gratitude. Thy fatherly care has been with me all day, and has protected my body and mind. I praise Thee for the opportunities and means of good which Thou hast given me—for each holy thought and aspiration Thou hast enabled me to indulge, for each virtuous deed Thou hast enabled me to perform.

Thou knowest, O Thou Omniscient God, what sins I have committed this day; Thou knowest how far I am wanting in that strict obedience to Thy law which Thou dost require from us. With deep penitence now I implore Thy mercy. Chasten and purify my soul by inflicting due retribution, and arm me with resolution not to fall into my sins again. Without Thine invigorating spirit, we cannot subdue the temptations which assail us. Fill me, therefore, Gracious Lord, with strength and constancy and faith, and help me to turn away from all that is evil and impure. May every day of my life be spent according to Thy will. Permit me now, O Lord, to retire to my bed with a heart full of trust in Thee; and grant that, if I live to rise from this sleep, I may consecrate my renewed energies to Thee. But if this night be my last night on earth, and my waking be in the regions of eternity, may I be carried on the wings of Thy mercy into the blessed mansions of purity and joy everlasting.

## IN PROSPERITY.

GRACIOUS Father, teach me so to enjoy the felicities which Thou hast unsparingly bestowed upon me in Thy great mercy, that they may not act as a snare to my soul. May Thy blessings, instead of inflating me with arrogance and vainglory, fill me with humility and fervent gratitude to Thee. May I remember that they are not designed to make me worldly-minded, but to call forth my greater and more earnest exertions in the cause of Him from whom I have received them. Grant that the temptations of prosperity may not drown the voice of conscience; grant that, amidst all the enjoyments and hopes of affluence, my heart may steadfastly cleave to Thee, Thou Giver of every good that I possess. Teach me, kind Lord, that as I cheerfully enjoy Thy gifts now, I may be prepared to abandon them as cheerfully, if need be, and be satisfied with whatever position I may fall into. Keep my heart alive to the vanity of this world, and help me to remember always that the highest honours and the sweetest joys of this life are only for a moment. And may I always aspire to that prosperity and that wealth which perish not—the prosperity of the soul, the wealth of a righteous heart. Be with me always, O Lord, and preserve me from temptations.


## IN AFFLICTION.

**H**ELP me, O Lord, who art with us in prosperity and in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, whose providence extendeth over the happy as well as over the poor and distressed, help me to bear my lot with patience and content. May I not deplore my lonely condition; but thank Thee that Thou hast placed me under the chastening and humbling influences of affliction, and opened my eyes to the hollowness and uncertainty of earthly felicities. May I specially rejoice that even in this fallen state Thy fatherly affection has not left me. When no hands are near to succour or console me, when the world has altogether ceased to smile on me, Thy loving arms are around me. I beseech Thee, O Thou Helper of the helpless, Thou Friend of the distressed, to invigorate me with Thy spirit, that I may resolutely bear the strokes of affliction, however severe, and with unflinching forbearance endure all privation and hardship. May affliction or sorrow never draw me away from the duties which I owe to Thee: however low my position may be, may I always retain Thee in my heart, Thou All-merciful Lord of the poor. Save me from discontent and despair, from vexation and heaviness of heart. Animate and gladden me with assurances of Thine infinite love, and enrich me with the treasures of Thy spirit. Thou art my all, O Lord. May I not consider whether I am rich or poor, but earnestly strive to discharge my duties to Thee in faith and love.

## FOR FORTITUDE.

**G**OD Almighty, inspire me with Thy spirit, and help me to place my firmest reliance on Thee, that I may boldly encounter and subdue the temptations of life. Preserve me from the fear of man and the service of mammon; keep me from whatsoever bindeth my affection to the vanities of the world. Teach me to remember always that I have a high and sacred mission to fulfil—even to dedicate my whole life to Thy service; and arm me with resolution and constancy, that I may advance in the path of my mission with unflinching steps, turning neither to the right nor to the left. May I learn to prize duty above all things, truth above the riches and honours of the world. Thine approbation above the esteem and applause of man. Make my love and fidelity towards Thee so unshakable that I may not only sacrifice my worldly interests for Thy sake, but do so with joy, remembering that Thou art dearer than the dearest objects. Vouchsafe unto me, O Lord, fortitude and enthusiasm: that, if the whole world were to stand in hostile array against me, I may not swerve from Thee, but manfully vindicate and uphold Thy cause in the face of all opposition and persecution. Help me so valiantly to fight for truth, in such unyielding and uncompromising spirit to obey Thy commands, that I may—if need be—lay my life at Thy feet amidst the difficulties and hardships of martyrdom. To Thy name, O Thou Omnipotent God, be everlasting glory.

## FOR DELIVERANCE.

 HOLY Father, amid the temptations and perils of the world, Thou only art my refuge ; Thy protection is my only hope. Conscious of sin and corruption, where shall I, O Lord, repose my troubled heart but upon Thine infinite mercies ? I am Thine, Thine for ever ; unto Thee do I cry, O my God : send me not away for my sins : but heal me, and root out the evil from my heart. O how solemn are my relations to Thee, and how awful, therefore, is my iniquity ! Being Thy child and servant, I have disobeyed Thy commands : being the object of Thine unbounded affection, I have ungratefully turned away from Thee. Though Thou didst constantly bid me eschew evil, and call me to Thy path, I neglected Thy bidding, I heeded not Thy call. Thy love to me, O Lord, is infinite ; but I love Thee not ; my love is fastened to the world. The magnitude of my guilt is immense, and makes me tremble to stand before Thy holy face. Deliver me, O Thou gracious God of Salvation, and purify my soul with the waters of penitence. Deliver me from corrupt thoughts and actions. Deliver me from an unclean heart ; from bad company and counsel ; from hypocrisy, fickleness, and uncharitable dispositions. Deliver me from worldliness, and whatever tendeth to turn away my love from Thee. Teach me to search my heart, and sacrifice whatever is wrong in it. When unworthy desires arise in my heart, and passions tempt me to evil, may I prayerfully throw myself upon Thy mercy, and with Thine aid fortify my soul. In all my spiritual endeavours, help me to look up to Thee for light and strength, for Thou art my all, O Merciful God.

## SELF-CONSECRATION.

**B**ESEECH Thee, O Thou God of Love, to engage my whole life in Thy service. Bind me to Thee by the sweet attractions of Thy love, and grant that nothing on earth may alienate my heart from Thee, Make me so thoroughly Thine, that I may cleave to Thee for ever,—in the hours of woe and the days of gladness, in weakness and strength, in health and sickness, in my labours and recreations, in my domestic affairs and social intercourses. Wherever I may be, in whatever work engaged, may I serve none but Thee, may I follow none but Thee. As Thou hast taught me to worship no created object, to serve no idol, cast out from my heart that spiritual idolatry which draws away my love and energies from Thee, and devotes them to the pursuit of some favourite passion,—that idolatry which makes the soul bow down before avarice, fame, ambition, or the felicities of the world. Keep me from all sorts of idolatry, and teach me to acknowledge Thee as my only Master, the One True God. May I always remember, that the sole aim of my life is to find Thee; and may all my thoughts and words and actions turn to Thy glory. May my whole life be pervaded by Thy holy spirit; may Thy love be the centre of all my actions. If there is aught in a corner of my heart which I love for its own sake, and which I cannot sacrifice for Thee, help me to root it out. Divert my affection from the world, and establish it firmly in Thee, that I may hanker after nothing but Thy pleasantest company. Gracious Lord, enable me, I beseech Thee, so thoroughly to devote myself to Thee, that I may live and die amid the sweet joys of true resignation.



## PRAYER FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS.

WE have assembled again, O Thou Ever-blessed God, to investigate Thy glories, and the momentous truths of our destiny and salvation. Vouchsafe unto us Thy enlightening and invigorating aid, that we may be enabled to accomplish that object. Save us from prejudices and errors, and the bewildering perplexities of controversy. O Thou Father and Instructor, nurture our souls in true faith. Quicken our consciences, and keep us always alive to our duties and responsibilities. Above all, teach us that reliance upon Thee is indispensable. As Thou exaltest our minds in the knowledge of truth, do Thou also train our hearts to a thorough love of Thee, and our wills to a practical obedience to Thy law; for if we do not practically fulfil Thy law, faith is unprofitable. Whatever truth we learn of Thee, may we at once apply to our life; whatever duty we may learn, may we at once put into practice. Teach us to be assiduous and persevering in our pursuit of truth, and to avail ourselves of all blessed means of improvement which may come in our way. May the writings of the devout fill us with good thoughts; may the examples of the righteous quicken our aspirations and strengthen our resolves; may constant communion with Thee purify our souls; may the remembrance of the brevity of life keep us from delays and the vanities of the world. Bless this school, O Lord. Bless them that give and them that receive instruction. Keep Thy holy light steadily before each one of us, and enable us to grow in faith and rectitude, here and hereafter.

## PRAYERS.

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### FAMILY PRAYER.

**G**OD our Father, who hast bound us together in this family by the ties of domestic affection, help us to draw near to Thee. Thou art the Guardian of our lives, the Giver of every good, our Guide and Counsellor. We regard it as our best privilege that Thou hast permitted us to call Thee our Father, and to bow down before Thee in filial trust and obedience. May we never forget Thine infinite mercies ; may we rejoice that Thou, Ruler of this universe, the Infinite Lord of the earth and heavens, art present at this family altar to hear and accept our humble prayers. Sweeten and strengthen those relations which bind us to each other, by drawing unto Thee the affections of each one of us. Foster in us right feelings toward each other, and cast out selfishness, jealousy, and whatsoever creates discord and ill-will among us. In all domestic joys, may we gratefully remember Thee : in all domestic calamities, may we learn to place our trust in Thee, knowing that in Thee is all our good. O Thou loving God, who with more than a mother's affection dost feed and protect us, preserve the souls of Thy children in Thy holy keeping. Chastise us, if we do wrong ; bring us back to Thee, if we run astray. Help us to keep our hearts from impurity, and our hands from unrighteous actions. Send unto us meekness and humility, and prepare us for all the vicissitudes of life. May we live as Thy obedient children and faithful followers. Thou art the Lord of this family ; make this home the abode of divine love, purity and faith, of peace and mutual good-will. Bless this family, O Lord, and make it truly Thine. Father of all families on earth, extend Thy glory everywhere, and draw unto Thee the hearts

of all Thy children. To Thee, O God, we consecrate our hearts and souls, that we may be Thine everlastingly

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## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

**W**E thank Thee, O Beneficent God, that Thou hast gathered us again in this sacred place of worship to glorify and adore Thee. The blessed hour to which we were earnestly looking forward amid the anxieties and troubles of the week has now arrived. Permit us to approach Thee, and prepare our hearts that we may feel Thy sacred presence. O Thou Light and Love, Thou art everywhere. Thou art before our eyes in all the objects we behold; Thou dwellest in the innermost recesses of the heart. Everywhere is Thy benignant face, and Thy loving arms are around us all. Help us so to concentrate our souls in Thy all-pervading spirit, so to feel Thy holiness and purity, that each corrupt desire, each worldly craving may perish, and all the sentiments and feelings of the soul may be brought at Thy feet. May the pleasures which we now enjoy in Thy company last for ever; may they continue to sweeten our whole lives, and endear Thee to us everlastingly. Vouchsafe to keep us always under the shadow of Thy protection, and guide our steps in the thorny paths of the world. Amidst the woes and sufferings of the world, be Thou our joy; amid its darkness, be Thou our light; amid its temptations and persecutions, be Thou our shield and armour. Promote amongst us good-will and affection, sanctify our dealings with each other, and bind us into a holy brother-

hood. May we aid each other in doing and loving that which is good in Thy sight. Teach us, O Lord, to spend all our days in Thy service, and aspire to be partakers of the rich blessings and lasting joys of the next world. Be with us always, Thou affectionate Father, and enable us to grow steadily in Thy love. Bring all men under the protection of true faith. May Thy dear name be chanted by every lip, and mayst Thou find a temple in every breast. And unto Thee we ascribe everlasting glory and praise.

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THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

OMMIGHTY God, we would praise Thee, and declare Thy mercies with joyful hearts. Thou art our Father, and the source of all the blessings we enjoy. At Thy command, the sun giveth us light and heat, and the moon sheddeth its serene lustre, and inviteth us to rest and sleep. By Thy law, the uncounted stars above bespangle the heavens, and the fields beneath smile in the luxuriance of harvests. Thou upholdest the earth and heavens, and the countless myriads of animated beings. Thou givest us food and clothing, and the manifold pleasures of the body. Each breath that we draw is Thy blessing. Wherever we turn our eyes, we behold the exhibitions of Thy mercy. Not a moment passes, but it reveals Thy marvellous goodness. All objects prompt us to gratitude, O Lord, and call forth our fervent praise. Thou art the life of our life; Thy right hand preserveth us. Our sustenance cometh from Thee, and all our delight proceedeth from Thee. When

we are hungry, Thou feedest us; when we are weary, Thou givest us rest. When woes and calamities afflict us, Thou wipest off the tears of our eyes; when despair overpowereth us, Thou sendest us hope and consolation. When we are utterly cast down, Thou comest to help and cheer us. When we are involved in sin and wickedness, Thou dost hourly knock at our hearts, that we may receive Thine aid and be saved. Though we forget Thee and seek Thee not, Thou keepest us always under the shadow of Thy mercy, and doest what is good for us. Thy mercies, O Lord,—who can describe? Infinite is Thy kindness! Unbounded Thy paternal love unto us! May Thy kingdom spread over the whole earth! May false beliefs and false worships perish: may the sun of truth shine upon all mankind, and may all hearts worship the True God. May our lips praise Thee for ever; may our souls always send forth fervent thanksgivings unto Thee. May all families and all nations chant Thy mercies. And unto Thy blessed name, O Lord, glory be for ever and ever!

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DEATH-BED PRAYER.

**G**RACIOUS Lord, the time is approaching when I shall depart from this world. All my enjoyments and felicities have forsaken me, my dearest relations and friends are turning their faces from me,—and alone as I did come, alone shall I depart. From all dear connections and pleasant objects of this world for ever cut off, I am about to launch into that vast eternity which stretches forth before me. O Thou Father, Preserver and Guide, Thou whose

hands have always protected me, accept my last but feeble tribute of gratitude for the blessings which Thou hast bestowed upon me, and especially for the strength and opportunities with which Thou hast enabled me to serve and worship Thee amidst the temptations of the world. Known to Thee are the manifold sins which I have committed in my life. Regenerate and purify me by Thy holy spirit, and receive me into Thy keeping. Help me, O Lord, to feel Thy love in this deserted and helpless state. My spirits are declining : my senses are failing me . no object brings me delight ; there is none to console or comfort my heart. All around me is darkness. Do Thou, O Kind Father, reveal Thy loving countenance at this solemn hour, and fill me with the sweets of Thy company. I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou hast not forsaken me, that Thy hands are near to help and protect me when all other hands are away. I thank Thee for Thy assurances that Thou wilt never forsake me ; but wilt continue to animate and purify me by Thy love, time without end. Thou only art mine, mine now and for ever, my Dearest Father, my Everlasting Friend. To Thy fatherly care, I commend my family, friends, and brethren. Bless them, O Lord, and keep them for ever under Thy protection. The world is fast going out of sight. Permit me now, dear Lord, to depart in faith and hope, and lead me to the regions of purity and peace

*June 27, 1875.*

## IN EATING AND DRINKING.

**M**AY I not forget Thee, O Lord, in little things. Even in eating and drinking may I glorify Thee ! Teach me to see Thy merciful hand in my daily meals, and consecrate the body nourished by them to Thy service.

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## DAILY BUSINESS.

**O** GOD, in the business and cares of the world be Thou near unto me. Many become worldly-minded and wicked because they are absorbed in the thought and pursuit of wealth. Save me, Good God, from this danger, and sanctify my daily business.

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## SANCTIFICATION.

**R**ULER of the universe, I approach Thee as a sinner panting for salvation. I have no interest in theological controversies ; they perplex, harden and kill the soul, O God. The one thing needful to which my heart most anxiously looks forward is my sanctification here and hereafter. I care not to be a Hindu, a Christian, a Mahomedan or a Buddhist, but I desire to be Thy devoted disciple and servant. From earthly churches set me free, and let my soul unfettered soar to Thee, and recognise

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Thee as its only Master and Saviour, its only Home and Joy for ever. Put a clean conscience within me and purify me perfectly, O my God, and Thou shalt have given me all I need and all I seek.

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## FOR OUR COUNTRYMEN.

**G**OD of our fatherland, our countrymen in great numbers have long since quitted the prison-house of idolatry and darkness in quest of truth. But they have not yet reached Thy temple. Alas ! many have wandered away in a wrong direction, and fallen into the meshes of doubt and infidelity. They have been deceived, O Lord, by false philosophy, and the pride of materialistic science has turned their hearts away from Thee. Too much reading makes them vain and blind, and failing to behold Thee and Thy law their infatuated minds readily fall into scepticism and sensuality. Save them, Merciful God, from the horrors of unbelief, and bring them into the right path which leads to Thy holy city.

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*July 4, 1875.*

## INDOLENCE.

**T**EACH us to remember that our days are few, O God, and help us to finish the work Thou hast prescribed for each of us with becoming earnestness



and despatch. What we can and should do to-day may we not indolently put off till tomorrow.

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#### BROTHERLY LOVE AND MUTUAL SERVICE

**T**HOUGH we profess to love Thee, O God, there is no love among ourselves. We are not brothers unto each other though we all recognise Thee as our common Father. Make us, Loving Father, one in Thee through prayer and mutual service

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#### IN THE MIDST OF DISCOURAGEMENT.

**O** MY Father, how hard is it to work and labour in the service of Thy church when the world awards dishonor as recompense, and not one among professed friends gives real sympathy or encouragement. Painful is it to fight single-handed. Yet sweet it is at such times to remember that Thou art near as our truest Friend, and sweeter to accept the reward which Thou dost dispense unto Thy tried servants. Even if the whole world be against us, grant, O Lord, that we may yet cheerfully serve Thee and rejoice in the place which cometh from Thee.

## AGAINST WAR.

**G**od of love and peace, do Thou, we humbly beseech Thee, avert the calamity of a terrible war about to burst upon us. It is sad to think of the misery and sin and bloodshed which are caused by war. O Lord, Thou hast forbidden war, and commanded Thy children to live in peace and brotherly love, so that we may be fit for Thy holy kingdom. Our vengeful hearts are easily excited by indignities and insults. Teach us, Father, to love our enemies and forgive them and return good for evil always. Merciful Sovereign, vouchsafe unto our rulers, in these days, wisdom and foresight, clemency and patience, and keep them from bad counsel. May Thy good name promote peace, good-will and love among all the nations of the earth!

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*July 11, 1875.*

## FOR UNION AMONG THE BROTHERHOOD.

**G**od, promote unity and brotherliness among the workers in Thy vineyard. They work, but often do they work out their own selfish ends, neglecting the interests of the community. They work, but they often work independently and apart from each other, looking upon all others as intruders and enemies. Pride and jealousy are in our heart, O Lord, and we cannot work together in a friendly spirit as servants engaged in a common cause. Teach us to remember, Master, that we are all employed in Thy service, and that Thou hast

## PRAYERS

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apportioned our respective duties and obligations, and help us on to identify ourselves and our interests as to be of one heart and one aim. Union will give us peace, union will give us strength, and we shall work joyfully and mightily, vanquishing our adversaries and making the earth tremble.

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### ETERNAL SOURCE OF WISDOM.

WHEN the world tells me to read books and become a scholar, O God, Thou art to me the Best Book and in Thee shall I seek true wisdom. They tell me to go to men for instruction. Thou art my Teacher, to Thee alone I look for all the light that I need amid the darkness and temptations of the world. In my inmost heart do Thou, O Eternal Source of Wisdom, speak, and the truth that falls from Thy lips shall save me.

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### FOR FALLEN WOMEN.

ON the fallen women of our city have mercy, O Lord. Omniscient, Thou knowest the depth of misery and iniquity into which they have sunk and the great difficulties which lie in the way of their reclamation. Sad is it to think of their lot. Not only have they gone down deep in sensuality and made vice their livelihood, but they are cut off from all reformatory agencies and means whereby they may yet rise to a better position. No good man goes to them, good books seldom reach them, none

is near to give good counsel. O God, how helpless these our fallen sisters ! Society hates them and shuns them as so many unclean things whose very presence is poison. Who will run to their succour ? To whom will they look but to Thee, O Father of the helpless and the fallen ? Convert and sanctify their hearts and help them to forsake the path of wickedness. Great God, teach all men and women continence that the world may be free from adultery, prostitution and all loathsome vices and become the abode of chastity and purity. Teach us Thy servants to pray to Thee every now and then, that through Thy blessing all victims of sensuality in this land and elsewhere may be saved from their fatal habit.

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SECRET ORATORY.

LEAD, me, Lord, into the deep places of worship where the believing heart may behold Thee face to face and commune with Thee secretly. I do not wish to be where prayers are words and worship is superficial. But may my soul always be where the richest treasures of truth, purity and joy are found in Thy in-dwelling and immediate presence.

PRAYERS.

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July 18, 1875.

AGAINST IMPURE THOUGHT.

DELIVER us, O Lord, from the vileness of an unchaste imagination and give us perfect pure-mindedness. The sins of youth are apt to associate themselves with and taint the imagination, being reproduced through life in varied forms of impure thought. O Lord, protect us, and our young men from this frightful evil. How long can we struggle with a mind that is diseased in sin, and with feelings that delight in uncleanness? Holy Spirit of God, lead out every thought into the light of heaven, and chasten every feeling with the touch of Thy righteousness.

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NEAR AND NEARER UNTO PERFECTION.

PURSUANT, O Lord, that we may ever desire, and ever struggle to be continually better. Whenever we are satisfied with the present condition of our soul, however high that condition may be, we are at the point of a downfall. It is Thy wish, O, Thou Perfect One, to draw us always near and nearer unto perfection. Why then should we stop in the way? Take us without ceasing from one stage to a higher stage of spiritual blessedness, and never leave us to be contented with our success.

## EFFICACY OF PRAYER.

**I** WOULD love and glorify prayer, O my adorable Father, next to Thee. In prayer I find delight and strength and purity. In prayer I see Thee and hear Thee. If ever I have a foretaste of heaven it is when I pray to Thee. Therefore shall I magnify prayer as my dearest and richest treasure. O God, I love prayer and am passionately attached to it, it is so sweet and charming. Make my daily prayers sweeter and truer that I may love them more and more, and find in them life everlasting.

## FOR OUR MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES.

**W**OULDSAFE more light and energy, O God, unto our missionary brethren. We look to them for precepts and for examples for our guidance, and in times of difficulty and trial we repair to them for friendly sympathy. Save them, therefore, O Holy One, from pride and worldliness and rationalism, and imbue them largely with humility, asceticism and faith, that they may be unto us and our country true friends and guides. Make their hearts free from deceit and corruption, that their childlike and guileless simplicity may win souls to them. Lord of the true church, inflame holy zeal in all Thy ministers and missionaries, and send them forth to conquer the world, and plant Thy banners in countries far and near.

*July 25, 1875.*

## AGAINST INTEMPERANCE.

**HA**VE mercy on our country, O Lord of nations, and stem the tide of drunkenness. The evil spreads, day after day, over this fair land once distinguished for its sobriety, and makes fearful havoc among the old and the young. Alas! how many, O Merciful Father, of our dear countrymen have fallen victims to this fell habit! How many have died in agony, leaving behind them helpless widows and orphans, and corrupt examples that will yet do their evil work among generations unborn. How disease, crime and vice in all their horrid forms are ruining our country! How men and women are crying for relief! O Lord, save this nation from the jaws of intemperance, and crush all institutions and laws which encourage the evil. Give unto our rulers wisdom and charity that they may feel for their subjects and secure their happiness, health and purity by wise legislation. To our Governor-General and our Lieutenant-Governor, and all their councillors vouchsafe such light as may enable them to save our country from a most degrading vice as far as is possible with human agencies. And we shall thank Thee and bless Thy dear name for ever and ever.

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FOR INWARD PURITY.

**W**HERE is sin, O my Redeemer, in my very **OF** bones. Pluck it out, and destroy the roots of all my evil habits. I am outwardly clean but inter-

nally I am foul and wicked, and it is because the root is still in me that I fail to lead a holy life in spite of my prayers and frequently fall into sin. O God, wash my heart clean with the waters of Thy redeeming grace.

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#### THE LIVES OF PROPHETS AND SAINTS.

THE lives of saints of all ages and countries bless  
 Thee, O my God, to my soul's benefit. Truly they are a revelation, and if read aright they can enlighten and ennoble the heart. Lord, teach me to approach them in spirit and draw from them such wisdom and strength, purity and joy as they may afford us by their examples and precepts. May I not neglect the light of the past, but may I connect my soul with the long line of prophets and dispensations that have gone by, and find in them living truth. O God, summon all departed saints to come and dwell in the heart of this sinner.

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#### AGAINST HOLLOW AND INSINCERE PRAYERS

DEEPEN our prayers, Holy Spirit, and infuse more life and fire into our devotion. Grant that everyone among us who prays may be found righteous and pure and devoted to Thy service. From hollow and insincere prayers, individual and congregational, deliver us, and so regulate and enliven our daily and weekly worship that each word uttered may bring back to us the blessings of



holiness and joy and prove an instrument of sanctification

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*August 1, 1875.*

VALUE OF TIME.

**W**E have no idea, O God, of the value of time, and we waste it sinfully, not remembering that we shall have to give an account of our use of it. Each hour, if rightly employed, would open up to us a world of self-help and of usefulness to society. Each moment might become to us the fountain of increased faith and purity and charity. How many such golden moments and hours we spend unprofitably and even unrighteously. O God! Teach us to make a right use of our days, so that we may feel that we have not only (not) wasted opportunities of being good and doing good, but that we have extracted from each passing hour as much good as we could and should have done. May we consecrate every day and hour unto Thee

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FOR OUR WOMANHOOD.

**O** GOD, help the women of the land, help our wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters. Father, Thou knowest how miserable is their condition. Intellectually and socially they are in the midst of darkness and sorrow. The customs and usages of the country are against their improvement, and would

keep them perpetually in a state of spiritual bondage. We humbly call on Thee, Merciful God, and ask Thee to vouchsafe unto them light and life. Grant that they may join us in our pilgrimage to the heavenly land, and share those precious blessings of knowledge and faith which Thou art showering on us in these days.

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## AN EASY AND NATURAL FAITH.

I HAVE heard, O my Father, that there is a place in Thy spiritual kingdom where Thy devotees, attain piety and purity with ease. They love and serve Thee as easily as they breathe. They are carried along the strong current of Thy grace, and religion is not to them, as it is to us, a painful conflict, a continued struggle. O God, help me to reach that favoured spot that I too may be as free and happy as they in the possession of an easy and natural faith. Long have I toiled. Grant, O Lord, that I may find no difficulty in worshipping and obeying Thee, and that everything concerning Thee may be easy unto me.

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## POVERTY.

WORD, we have tried prosperity and we have tried poverty. The former has vitiated us; the latter has proved favorable to our spiritual and moral growth. Poverty makes us humble and curbs pride and arrogance. Poverty restrains the lusts

of the flesh and all the passions of the heart. Poverty makes us love and honour each other. Poverty sweetens religion and makes Thee, O God, dear to us. Therefore we pray unto Thee, kind God, teach us poverty and asceticism, and make us always lowly in spirit.

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FOR CURE OF SINFULNESS.

**N**OW O Lord! that Thou hast opened out before me the deep sinfulness of my soul, I beseech Thee to cure it. I never knew before that my heart was such a den of foulness, and that the vile appetites of my nature were so far beyond my control. But, O Lord, what avails this self-knowledge unless it is followed by self-correction, and to that end I beseech Thee to help me. Make my soul ever pure, and ever innocent, content to bear Thy chastisement, and to be humiliated before Thee, and before all men.

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IN AFFLICTION.

**S**WEETEN my spirit in the midst of my affliction, O Lord, and teach me to bless Thee with a broken heart. When Thou gavest me joy and delight, I accepted it with thankfulness, and now if Thou offerest me the bitter cup shall I not drink it? My Good God, cause me to feel Thy presence when danger and sorrow are near, that I may feel Thy hand holds me in the midst of the darkness.

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*August 8, 1875.*

**G**ALL upon me, saith the Lord, in the time of trouble; so will I hear thee, and thou shalt praise me.

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IN HEAVINESS.

**W**HEN I am in heaviness I will think upon Thee my God.

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REGULAR ATTENDANCE IN CHURCH.

**P**RANT, O God, that I may never stay away from the house of worship. May I regularly attend the church service, and join my brothers and sisters, week after week, in adoring Thee and singing Thy sweet name, so that I may help not only my own sanctification but also the consolidation of Thy true church and the establishment of Thy holy kingdom in the world.

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NO WORK, BUT WHAT IS APPORTIONED BY GOD.

**I** LOVE communion, unceasing and sweet communion; but my friends tell me, O my God, that I must go and work. I confess, Father, I am averse to all work, except such as I feel to be Thy work.

Whatsoever Thou commandest I shall do. cheerfully and energetically, toiling the whole day, if need be, for there is joy in such labour and devotion too. But I would not, for the sake of the love and allegiance I have vowed unto Thee, do anything which Thou hast not apportioned to me as my work, or which may in any way disturb the spirit of communion or inflame the evil passions of the heart. Grant, O Lord, that amid the activities of life I may preserve the serenity and sweetness of devotion and that in all that I do I may abide in Thee and be with Thee.

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#### AGAINST UNBROTHERLINESS AND RACE ANTAGONISM.

**ALMIGHTY** God, jealousy and unbrotherliness rage in this land, and separate communities, sects and classes from each other. Neither religion nor the interests of a common country can unite us into a co-operative brotherhood. How long shall we natives of the soil war with each other and with the ruling race, while our dear country is being demoralized and ruined by such internal feuds and social antipathies? Whatever our peculiarities and differences may be O God, grant that we may work with one heart for the amelioration of our great country, loving and honouring each other, and allowing and helping each to do the work Thy Providence has appointed for him. Good God, promote love, mutual confidence and respect, and brotherhood among all the sections of the nation.

## IN THE WORLD AND YET ABOVE IT.

**M**Y God, in days gone by saints and devotees used to retire from the world in old age and give themselves up wholly to devotion and communion. And they rejoiced they could serve Thee and love Thee without hindrance in their sacred retreats far from the temptations and vexations of the world. My soul likewise pants for lonely communion with Thee and desires to run at once into Thy bosom. What means shall I employ to give effect to my soul's yearnings? Tell me, O Lord of devotees. Home and family and friends I will not desert, for that would be against Thy law. So arrange then, O Friend and Guide, my household affairs, that I may convert my own home into a hermit's abode; and find hills and valleys where I am for solitary meditation. May I spend the residue of my life as a retired ascetic, amid and yet apart from the temptations and trials, business and pleasures of society! Though in the world may I yet be above it!

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*August 15, 1875.*

## FOR DEVOTIONAL HABITS.

**T**HE more I pray, O my God, the more am I pleased. I rejoice in my own prayers. The words that go out of my mouth gladden me. For this I thank Thee heartily. I have hitherto valued prayer for the fruits it yields and the response it brings from Thee in the course of time. But I now feel Good God, that the very act of prayer is sweet and agreeable, and that

there is abundant joy in devotion itself. Help me then to cultivate devotional habits with increased fervency, day after day, that I may realize both their benefits and their joys.

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FOR OUR WIVES.

W<sup>HO</sup> Then, O Omniscient God, are known all the obstacles that lie in the path of our spiritual growth. Thou knowest that our relations to our wives are not favourable to our progress, and cause much uneasiness and impurity. They are not what they ought to be, helpful companions in our spiritual journey. Thou hast given them to us that they may lighten our sorrows, sympathize with us in our misfortunes, soften our hearts and help us in sanctifying our homes. But they have not proved helpful to us in the way Thou desirest, both on account of their own faults and the manner in which we treat them. In the world they help us; but, O Lord, they impede the soul's growth in faith, love, purity and communion. They are not our companions in our prayers, in the deeper consciousness of religious life. Bless them, God, and make them our spiritual friends and companions, that we may see Thee together, and serve Thee together, and with one heart glorify Thee for ever and ever.

## AGAINST BIGOTRY AND SECTARIANISM.

**B**EHAVIOUR, deliver us from bigotry and sectarian narrowness of heart. It is strange, Lord, that religion should make us hate each other, and that in Thy name we should maltreat our brethren, giving vent to the worst feelings of jealousy, anger and vindictiveness. Those who are not of our faith we put away with contempt and scorn, on the plea of our religious exaltedness and the sanctity of our church. But Thou forsakest none, no, not even infidels and atheists. Thou art kind and compassionate to all, Thou hatest not Thy unbelieving children. Why then shall we, O God? Teach us to pity and help those who differ from us and belong not to our fold, and help us to pray unto Thee for their deliverance from error and unbelief. Even those who deny Thee, O Lord, may we love and serve with brotherly compassion and interest, that we may prove worthy of the true church that hateth not but spreadeth the kingdom of love.

## FOR A CLEAN CONSCIENCE.

**A**BOVE all things I desire a clean conscience; give it, O God, for I can have no peace without it. If I pray daily but have no purity of character, of what avail are my prayers? How can I rejoice in devotion if it does not subdue all my carnal passions and chasten all my thoughts and wishes, all my words and deeds. Without purity my life cannot be acceptable unto Thee, though I may pray ever so many times. Nay even the world will call me a



hollow-hearted hypocrite, and treat my outward piety as vile insincerity. Grant that my daily prayers may so sanctify the depths of my heart that I may find no impure thought within. May each day of my life be bright and stainless, and may I daily draw near that stage of purity wherein it will not be possible for me to desire or conceive anything wrong. O Fountain of Holiness, dwell Thou ever in the heart of this sinner.

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*August 21, 1875.*

AGAINST SPIRITUAL PRIDE.

**G**URB my pride, O God, for pride is one of my worst foes. When I was in the world I was proud of riches and position, wealth and power. Since I have joined Thy church I have through Thy grace cast away worldly pride. But I am now a victim of spiritual arrogance. My wicked heart has only exchanged one form of pride for another. Even when I am humble and poor I feel proud of my humility and poverty. I feel that others are inferior to me in devotion, faith and purity, and cannot pray and live so well as I do. My jealous and proud heart would not allow a brother to stand near it. Father, chastise this stiff-necked sinner, and make me humble and meek. Bring me down to the dust, and help me to feel how utterly worthless I am in Thy sight.

## SERVE GOD AMIDST WORLDLY AVOCATIONS.

BLESSED are they who have dedicated their lives entirely to Thee, O Lord, and cultivate devotion and charity as their sole mission, for they gladly serve Thee day and night and rejoice in Thee always. But we are fettered with the chains of daily business, and cannot freely enjoy communion with Thee. Bring men of the world we have to attend to numerous calls and engagements and are often troubled with anxieties and cares which make us turn away from Thee. Grant, O God, that amid such unfavourable circumstances we may cling to Thy feet with firmness and humility and a full sense of the dangers which beset us. Give us strength so to subdue the world with Thy law and spirit that we may remain pure and cheerful amid all its temptations and trials. Though in the world, may we be spiritually-minded, and may the lowest work of life be hallowed by Thy presence.

## TO SETTLE IN HEAVEN

THOU takest me to heaven while I pray, but I drag myself down to hell when I go to the world to work. Is there not, O my Saviour, such a place in heaven as I may fasten myself to during devotion so that neither the pleasures nor sorrows of daily life may draw me away from it? Give me such a place, dear God, that I may hide myself there the next time I go to worship Thee, and never again return from it to this world of sin and shame. A heavenly sojourn in heaven Thy grace has often

helped me to enjoy. I now entreat Thee, Lord, to give me permission and power to settle in Thine abode.

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## PERSONAL GOD.

**F**ORMLESS Invisible Spirit, to us Thou art a Person, clothed in all the attributes of personal love and holiness. We know Thou art not man. This we know also that Thou art not an abstraction. We will not color Thee with the passions of humanity, nor can we imagine Thee away into thin and empty space. But in the inmost heart Thou shalt abide as our dear Father and Friend, speaking to us tender words of counsel and comfort, wiping off the tears of our eyes, feeding us, guarding our hearths and homes, running about with us wherever we go and doing everything to please and sanctify us. We thank Thee that Thou hast dissipated from the world that foolish doctrine that none can love Pure Spirit. Here art Thou, Loving Father; we see Thee and worship Thee, and magnify Thy sweet personal love.

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*August 29, 1875.*

## SELF-CONSECRATION.

**M**ERCIFUL Lord, permit me to retire from the world, its activities and pleasures. Long have I been in it and served it. And now, Master, I ask Thee to let Thy servant depart from it in peace. I

will not forsake home and friends and spend the rest of my life in a distant retreat, in solitary devotion, but will continue to do Thy will in my own humble sphere in the world and try to discharge my duties to those around me. I pray for this only that I may altogether renounce worldliness and give my heart to Thee. I do not wish to be fettered any longer, but hope to be enabled to remain always absorbed in Thy love. Do Thou help me to carry out this my cherished desire. Sanctify my relations to my family and neighbours and enable me to square my accounts with the world, that I may wholly consecrate myself to Thy worship and service in the inner temple of my heart.

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FOR STUDENTS.

**W**HILT Thou not bless these youthful and helpless students lying at Thy feet, O God? We are engaged in pursuing knowledge and acquiring the treasures of science. Great difficulties beset us, and there are many temptations and dangers in our path, from which, Good Lord, set us free. Too much reading may make us vain; secular studies may make us sceptical and worldly-minded; the love of amusement during moments of recreation may expose us to corruptions and vicious pleasures; constant association with gay youths may teach us levity and rivalry. Deliver us from these evils, Father, and so regulate our studies and amusements that we may, while gathering earthly knowledge, be filled with

that higher wisdom which leadeth the soul to sanctity and salvation.

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#### FOR THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**B**LESS the Education Department, O God, and grant light and guidance unto those who are entrusted with its management. To educate the men and women of the land so as to fit them for time and eternity is a work of great responsibility. We pray unto Thee that all those who are engaged in the work may fully realize the responsibility. Teach all professors and teachers, inspectors and directors the sacredness of their vocation, and help them to feel that without Thine aid they cannot safely guide or nurture the tender hearts of their young pupils. May they always remember that the true end of education is to enrich the student with Thy truth and qualify him for Thy service. May all our schools and colleges be, under Thy guidance, nurseries of truthfulness, wisdom, purity and blessedness, and may the young men trained therein go out into the broad world, full of Thy light, and be blessed

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*September 5, 1875.*

#### FOR GOD-VISION.

**I** WAS an idolater, O God, but now, I thank Thee, I am a Thrist. My intellect rejoices that it has given up error and recognised the true God. My

heart, however, has not found entire satisfaction in the change. For when I was an idolater I used to see my deity and felt much joy in the perception. But now I worship Thee and yet see Thee not, for Thou art the Supreme Spirit, invisible and unseen. My betters have told me that it is possible to see Thee with the eye of faith, as vividly as men see external objects. The joys of such perception, vouchsafed to saints and all true believers, do Thou O Merciful Father grant unto me yet groping in the earlier stages of Theistic worship. Have mercy on this infant soul and enable me to behold Thy loving countenance.

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## AGAINST HYPOCRISY.

**A**RE we not hypocrites, Lord? We come to Thee in the garb of sanctity and pour forth prayer and praise in the choicest language of devotion. We pass before the world as Thy believers and worshippers, and receive esteem and affection wherever we go. But what filthy hearts do we carry within us, and how unwilling are we to apply the spirit of our daily devotion to our lives! We pray like saints but we live like sinners. Thine all-seeing eye is a witness of our secret sins and of the anxiety and watchfulness with which we are every moment trying to hide those sins and appear respectable in society. Deliver us from the curse of hypocrisy, Almighty Redeemer; and teach us to live righteously that we may be true to our professions and prayers all the days we live.

## WITH GOD ALWAYS.

THOU art the most beautiful of all objects and persons, I have seen, O Thou dearest God of my life. None so sweet to my soul as Thou my Father and Friend. How I rejoice when in Thy company, I refresh and gladden my spirit under Thy benignant eyes! How I remove all cares and sorrows of the world by simply bowing beneath Thy feet! How my heart becomes a romantic garden, redolent of sweet fragrance and music, when Thy loving and serene face shines upon me and Thy words breathe peace into my ears! How during communion I am immersed in Thee, O Thou Ocean of Love and Bliss! Therefore I pray Thee, my Comfort and Joy for ever, do not desert me; never, O never desert me, but be with me always. Thou art the light of my eye and the pearl necklace of my heart; to live apart from Thee is sorrow and death to me. O Lord, continue to abide in me, Thou poor man's treasure.

## EXPLORING PARTY TO THE INNER SANCTUARY.

WE are a small band of devotees, searching Thee, O Lord, not in market places nor in temples, but in hidden retreats, far from the world's gaze. So far as Thy spirit can be attained in public places we have reached Thee. But much remains yet to be seen and enjoyed in the inner sanctuary of Thy house, where communities and congregations have no access and where superficial search is unavailing. Therefore have we determined O Thou

secret and inexhaustible mine of wealth, to form a small exploring party of select friends, and with sufficient provisions go forth exploring Thy hidden nature and discovering treasures yet unknown. We humbly implore Thy blessings upon this holy expedition. Grant, Good God, that we may pass successfully through deep devotion and communion to the land we seek..

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*September 12, 1875.*

IN OLD AGE.

BEHOLD, O Lord, old age is slowly overtaking me, and grey hairs are upon my head. It is meet that I should at this time forsake the vanities of the world, and be conscious of my true state. The ambition of my life is still remaining unsatisfied, and my great work unaccomplished. Unfold within me the germ of truth. Give unto me Thy strength, and in Thy love and peace keep me submerged. So that deaf to all false praise and blame I may do the good work Thou hast appointed for me and enter into the peace and rest Thou hast prepared for me.

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BLESSINGS OF AFFLICTION AND SORROW

GOD of love, Thou knowest me and carest for me. Thou alone hast the right therefore to afflict me. The sorrows which Thou sendest are real and deep, but they do not sadden, they sweeten



my spirit. In being humbled I feel I am sanctified, and in being stricken I am made worthy to be called Thy servant. Lord afflict me as much as Thou wouldst, but grant that my grief may always bring me nearer and yet nearer to Thee.

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TO ABIDE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD.

DAILY I come to Thee, O my God, and daily I return from Thee. Wilt Thou not make me abide with Thee for ever? I am tired of walking to and fro, and I fear this long journey forward and backward, for the distance is very great from Thy house to the world, will soon overpower my feeble soul. Grant me a corner in Thy house that I may permanently abide there and bring the sorrows of a wayfaring life to a close. To be with Thee continually all the hours of the day, sitting, standing, walking, is a most precious privilege which Thy servant longs for. Vouchsafe unto me but this privilege and I shall have all I desire.

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IN SOLITUDE.

SOLITUDE is sweet, O God, for in solitude one enjoys Thy lovely (lonely?) whispers. When I am alone Thou speakest to me much deeper truths than those Thou revealest in the market-place before the multitude. There Thou speakest to *us*, but here to *me*. How I desire, O my dearest Saviour, to open my heart to Thee in the unreserved language of filial

tenderness divested of all forms and ceremonies; and how I wish to hear Thee speak to me with all the familiarity of a loving Father and Mother! Speak, O God, freely and unreservedly, and tell me all Thou hast got to say to instruct me, cheer me and save me.

September 10. 1875

## INFINITE FORGIVENESS OF GOD

**O** GOD, Thou art exceedingly tender-hearted, the sweetness of Thy fatherly solicitude surpasses description. The sorrows of even the most wicked of Thy children do not please Thee, nor art Thou even so hard as to be deaf or indifferent to the cries of the least of them. Thou canst not bear the thought that any of Thy children should perish. And therefore we find Thee daily dispensing various means to win back those that have gone astray. Thy love is most active, Thy providence never ceases to work for our redemption, Thy patience has no bounds, Thy forgiveness is infinite. If we sin a thousand times Thou art as anxious as ever, in the plenitude of Thy love, to give us salvation in return for our wickedness. It is a comfort to see Thee abiding with us and working day and night, with more than a mother's tenderness, to deliver us from evil. Good Lord, it is sweet to think of Thy love

## FOR OUR RULERS.

**A**MONG those that sit over us as rulers there is, Lord, very little real interest in the welfare of the subject-population. Do Thou, Great God, incline their hearts to the advancement of the moral and material prosperity of those whom Thou hast confided to their care. As foreigners they cannot, and perhaps do not care to understand our real wants and interests, and they are too worldly-minded and self-seeking to be anxious for the welfare of the people. Enable them to feel the weight of their responsibilities, and to use properly the immense power and resources they possess unto the good of the country. Help them to cultivate charity, justice, meekness, humility, and all other virtues that may make them useful and dear to the people under their sway. May they love Thee, Lord, and serve Thee, and may the country benefit by the influences of their personal character and good government.

## LESSON FROM AN EVIL EXAMPLE.

**Y**ESTERDAY, O God, the local court sentenced a young man to be hanged, for he was found guilty of having murdered a woman of ill-fame. Lust and drink have proved this man's curse, and he will soon leave this world in sin, shame and misery, leaving behind him a helpless widow to lament and an unconcerned public for a moment to pity his fate and execrate his name. But who can conceive, without compassion, the sorrows of the unfortunate wife, sorrows caused by the infamous career of

an immoral husband? The heart aches to think of her future. O Merciful Father, save this land from those monstrous vices, lust and drunkenness, and make the case of this young man an example and warning unto all the youths of the country.

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## SPIRITUAL INTOXICATION.

I HAVE tasted, Father dear, the wine of sweet communion, which day after day Thou hast poured into my heart during my morning prayers, and I feel extremely happy. But such wine no longer suits the advanced stage of devotion to which Thou hast brought me, and my heart naturally craves for stronger drink. From Thy inexhaustible store-house do Thou graciously supply me with such nectar of love and joy as may keep my soul under its inebriating influences all day and night. Experience has convinced me that there is far more real happiness in spiritual intoxication than in all the pleasures of the world put together. Therefore I humbly pray unto Thee, O Father, vouchsafe unto me far more inebriating communion than I have yet tasted.

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## FOR PATIENCE.

PATIENCE is a small virtue, Lord and I am apt to despise it. Yet how often have I found that it is mighty in saving the soul from sin and destruction. The heart sinks whenever clouds gather around it. It loses courage and fortitude and falls into

gloomy despondency, if it cannot pray well or live righteously in consequence of carnality, and then it begins to feel that nothing can make it holier and that therefore it must give up everything in despair. But, Gracious God, Thou hast taught me that to be patient in such trials and reverses is to overcome them, and that one has only to wait with forbearance and he is sure of rising above his trials. Grant O God, that I may never be impatient, but that I may ever hopefully look up to Thee and prayerfully await the day of peace in the season of danger and trial.

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*September 26, 1875.*

FOR OUR LITTLE BAND.

TURN Thine eye upon our little band, O Thou Faithful Shepherd of men! and defend us against the wiles of the wicked. Our worst enemies have been, and yet are in the midst of us. We have defeated Thy holy purposes, we have defiled the purity of Thy household, we have rebelled against Thy dispensation. How long, yet how long, O Thou God of long suffering mercy, wilt Thou permit such vile things? Behold Thy faithful servants are aggrieved, the members of Thy house cry out in agony and despair, and all hearts are filled with gloom and sadness. With Thy right arm of power defend the good against the evil, the weak against triumphs of wicked strength, defend the unstained reputation of Thy sons and daughters who have been called by Thee, and be with Thy children at all times.

## POVERTY.

**B**ESEECH Thee, O Lord, vouchsafe unto me the grace of poverty. Enable me to find out my utter worthlessness, and afflict me with the sense of my deep want. Thee, O Lord ' I have not found, and in Thy absence my wisdom is folly, and my goodness self-deception. O my God if others have learnt to disbelieve and scorn me for my wickedness, why should I not do the something to myself? Henceforth let my name be counted with the poor in spirit, and my face bear the marks of inward indigence. Freely give unto me the unspeakable grace of feeling that I am utterly without the means of salvation and purity, so that in Thy fulness I may find my whole resource and hope. Lord be Thou mine, and though I be contemned and spurned I will be happy and peaceful.

## LIFE IN GOD.

**O** MY God, if it has pleased Thee to take away a portion of my happiness in this world that I may know, love, and serve Thee with a whole heart, Why is then my spirit divided still, and my heart so dull and cold? It is not that I want to regain what I have lost, but that I do not want to gain Thee with sufficient earnestness. Life in Thee, my God, is not yet such a reality to me that I shall seek it and cherish the whole ambition of my being for it. Prayer and communion are more real than before, and morning after morning I would approach Thee with all the devotion of faith I find in my soul. But

to live in Thee, I am not anxious, to spend my day with Thee, in Thee, for Thee. The occupations of life take me to a distance from the object of my prayer, and the scenes of the world dull and deaden my spiritual eye. My God, cause me to find in Thee the sustenance and habitation of my soul day and night. Crown my affliction by a conscious enjoyment of Thy hallowed nearness all the moments of the day. Fill me with the blessedness of realizing that I am Thine and in Thee at all places, under all circumstances, and for ever. Amen!

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#### BROTHERLY LOVE.

DEAR God, we, a small band of Thy servants, have been worshipping and serving Thee together for many long years, and trying to live like a united family. But after years of varied endeavours and much devotion we find we do not love each other as we should. That term of endearment "brother" we are not yet fit to apply to each other, so great is our mutual distance. Lord draw our hearts nearer to each other, and help us to cast away selfishness, envy, jealousy, and all passions that separate and estrange us. Teach us to love and honour each other as Thy children, and sit at Thy feet always as a loving and blessed family.

HEAVEN OF PEACE AND JOY.

**I** WISH to go deeper into Thy loving and tender heart. O my God, that the world's cares and temptations may not reach me, and I may ever remain absorbed in Thy sweetness. I have tried many places, but none is free from trials and troubles. In Thy bosom alone is there rest for me. Help me to abide there and find salvation in that tranquil heaven of peace and joy.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES.

**CAUSE** Thy light, Almighty God, to shine on all Christian missionaries working in this land. Do Thou revive, we earnestly beseech Thee, their declining zeal and energies, and increase their spirituality and devotion. Unlike the noble band of apostles, martyrs and saints that have preceded them, they are, at least most of them, dull preachers of dogmas that bring neither light nor life to our nation. O Lord, if they have come to benefit us may their lives show more earnestness, self-denial and prayerfulness. Make them worthy of Christ and acceptable to the people among whom they labour by imbuing their hearts largely with that simplicity of faith, sweetness of devotion and lowliness of asceticism without which preaching is sure to be ineffectual. Lord, teach them to be humble and poor, and turn more to the spirit than to empty forms, so that they may prove truly helpful in leading our countrymen to purity of life and godliness.



## TEACH ME TO PRAY.

**GO**RD, teach me to pray. I have been praying for many years, and yet there is wickedness enough in me. My prayers have not been quite sincere; much that I have said unto Thee from time to time, went forth from my lips, not my heart. I feel, and I confess with penitence, that I have often indulged in hypocritical prayers before Thee. Were I a true adorer I would be a better and holier man to-day than I am. Let me not look to the language of devotion, not to its forms, but its reality. Let me not pray like a philosopher or a rhetorician, but as a child full of simplicity and frankness may I always speak unto Thee. That is true prayer O my God, in which the soul makes no effort, but glides along the tide of natural instincts and impulses. Sit Thou before me as my Father, and teach me to speak as a child.

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*October 3, 1875.*

## UNFAITHFULNESS.

**DE**AR witness, O Lord, to the unfaithfulness of the servants whom Thou hast so highly blest. Thy work has been neglected and Thy house has not been built because Thy servants, who hold commission from Thee, are fond of ease and pleasure. Thou hast repeatedly exhorted and warned them that Thy commandments are not to be trifled with, but asleep in idleness and wilfulness they have not heeded Thy voice. Grant now that we may be aware of the

danger which inevitably follows disobedience of Thee, and take pains to repair the mischief that our character has produced. Suffer us no more to take advantage of Thy goodness, and give us no more indulgence. We do not deserve any further long-suffering, because our offences have been many and great. Compel us to serve those whose servants Thou hast made us. Afflict us, and chastise us that we may look up to Thee only for our reward and consolation in the midst of our labours and trials.

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#### SELF-FLATTERY AND CROOKEDNESS OF HEART.

**OPEN** unto us, O God, the gates of Thy secret kingdom which is far removed from this world. Disallow and destroy every falsehood of deed and word which comes in the way of our beholding the light of that kingdom. Persuade us to eschew the false conceits and imaginations which in our vanity we confound with true religion. Give unto us the simplicity and meekness of mind whereunto Thy holy will is revealed. Our worst enemies are self-flattery, and a crookedness of heart which taketh delight in unrealities. O Lord, deliver us from the influence of both.

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*October 10, 1875.*

#### MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

**NOW** can Thy servants work, O Lord, without mutual confidence of any kind? That we are all unworthy is a fact, and left to our own judgment

would injure Thy cause, without being able to serve it. But since Thou hast chosen us, given us the great privilege of calling on Thee, and relying on Thy strength, why should we not seek Thy light, and in Thy wisdom be wise to serve Thee well? O Thou who art the Master of us all, inspire us with the right feeling towards each other, and give unto us the blessing whereby we may depend upon each other with respect and confidence.

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#### OUR COUNTRY-WOMEN.

**G**IVE mercy, O Lord, upon the women of this country who are so unhappy. They have not the light of knowledge, neither do they enjoy the light of Thy face. Kept apart from society they pine in selfishness, superstition, and the love of mean worldly pleasures. They are the sport of men, and the objects of their unholy desires. Taken out from their present condition, they run the risk of being insulted and wrongly treated by the sterner sex, and they may also catch the treacherous vices of false refinement. We pray unto Thee, O God, deliver them from these manifold evils, place them in their right position, and in modesty, purity, and true womanly goodness make them the ornaments and safe-guards of society.

## HAPPINESS IN DEVOTION.

**T**HOU art peace, O Lord; Thy very presence soothes the heart and banishes sorrow. Who is there that came to Thee full of troubles and overburdened with sorrow that did not go away rejoicing! In this valley of tears how often does the heart faint and sink amid surrounding darkness! But Thou, O Lord of joy, art the devotee's strength and peace, and he enjoys sunshine in the darkest night. He does not worship Thee for duty's sake, but his prayer is a pleasure. Thou makest him smile day and night in Thy presence. Help me, O God, to find such happiness in devotion that I may be with Thee for ever and ever.

## SURRENDER OF SELF.

**I** HAVE sold my independence unto Thee, O my God, and think it an abomination to have a will of my own. Many years of my life have I spent in my own way, with my own judgment and inclinations and tastes as my guide, and I have found by experience that nothing makes the heart so miserable as self-will. Teach me perfect obedience, Master, and draw my entire allegiance towards Thee. Help me to remain fastened to Thy throne with the chains of discipline and love, that I may not only bear Thy yoke but do so cheerfully and lovingly.

*October 17, 1875.*

## NEW DISPENSATIONS.

**D**O not believe, Lord, that the book of revelation has been closed, and that its last chapter has been given to the world. No, my God, I believe in Thy continued speaking, in the ceaseless unfolding of Thy gospel through endless ages. Day after day Thou art revealing new light, and dispensing new gifts unto us. Who will deny this? O Father, Thou art ever new, and Thy light is ever fresh. Many a chapter of Thy saving gospel has yet to be written, and more deeply shall we hereafter enter into Thy counsels, becoming wiser and purer in the light of new dispensations, now veiled from us. Confirm my faith, O God, in Thy living providence, and help me to wait prayerfully and patiently for that fuller unfolding of Thy saving dispensation which is yet to enlighten and sanctify me.

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## REPENTANCE FOR SECRET SINS.

**M**AKE known the hidden secrets of sin in my heart, O Thou all-seeing God, that I may do penance for them, and seek Thy grace for sanctification. Suffer me not to remain self-forgotten in the midst of mine iniquities, or to delude myself with the complacent sense of false righteousness. Let the wicked be humiliated before Thee, and the self-willed feel that they have not the favour of Thy countenance. Descend, O God, in the terrible might of Thy judgment that we may feel and tremble for our many

offences. Purge all uncleanness and unreality from Thy house, and from the midst of Thy servants, and let the faithful and the good stand justified by the light of Thy grace. Cause the deep unspeakable mortification of repentance to enter into the soul of Thy unfaithful servant, that he may make no further delay to obey Thee, and to be what Thou wouldst make him.

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## COMMUNION WITH NATURE.

**O** GOD, to the believer whose heart is attuned to Thy spirit all nature speaks soft and sweet music. To be with Thee is to be with nature. To feel and enjoy the harmony of Thy love is to enjoy the harmony of the whole universe. When Thou, O dear God, speakest to the inmost heart in the tender language of infinite mercy, hills and mountains, rivers and oceans, sun, moon and stars, plants and flowers, all discourse eloquently and sweetly of Thy majesty and beauty, and all nature proves a friend to devotion. The joys and the benefits of such friendship help me, O Lord, to enjoy more and more. Safe and happy I shall be if Thy grace permits me to enjoy perpetual communion with Thee and with nature.

## SERVICE OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

**T**HU I am so unworthy to be allowed into the communion of Thy children, O Lord, how much more unworthy I am to be allowed into Thy presence ! Yet anything of life or joy, or purity, or true manhood that I am ever blessed with is before Thee alone. Therefore I do pray and beseech that I may always abide in Thy presence which is sanctifying and ennobling, and eschew all other company for which I am so unfit. It is for Thee to give me the fitness I do not possess, and blessed by Thee I may proceed anywhere with a hope of gaining, and giving the help which it is Thy purpose that Thy children should render unto each other. Enable me to serve my brethren and sisters in the spirit of holiness which Thy perpetual communion alone can inspire.

October 24, 1875.

## LIFE FOR GOD.

**I**T is not much, O Lord, that holds me to the hope of life and pleasure, yet how great is the power of self-deception which that little can exercise ! Self-deceived man understands not what it is to hold life for Thee. Lord, when wilt Thou send the grace which is to set me free for ever from self, and from the false sense of pleasure in which that self abides ? Remove from my path the stumbling block of all carnal affections. Suffer me not to be swayed by the least feeling of my personal profit or loss. In all matters of suffer-

ing and patience, enjoyment and hope, life and death, let me hold myself for Thee, in Thee, and according to Thy will for ever.

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## FOR STEADINESS AND STRENGTH.

**H**OW long, O Lord, can human firmness and faith prevail against the powerful world? And who is strong enough to cope with the triumphant wickedness of Thy enemies? Therefore, O Thou Omnipotent one, infuse Thy strength into our hearts, and amidst the trials and weaknesses of the flesh make us steady; cause us to seek and serve Thy purposes, and to stick to them in all discouragements; cause us to rise over our circumstances and disadvantages whatever they may be; cause us at all times to work with Thee, that we may win with Thee at last. Be Thou the protector, and the strength of Thy dependents at all times.

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## FAMILY OF GOD ON EARTH.

**C**AST one pitying glance, O Lord, upon the men and women whom Thou hast brought together in Thy house, and bless them to abide with Thee. Purify, ennoble, and sweeten their mutual relations. Give them the willingness to serve Thee, and to serve each other in the true spirit of holiness, and affectionateness. Inspire them with the hope that they shall yet form Thy family on earth, and show an example of peace, good-will and righteousness.



## TRUE ASCETICISM.

**I** DESIRE to be an ascetic, but I cannot, O Lord, attain asceticism, so strong is my attachment to the world. I love riches and fame, power and rank. I love my home and relations and friends with such passionate and blind affection that I feel I am kept away from Thee and Thy service. The world is dearer to me than Thy name, and hence is it that when Thou demandest my allegiance and love I stand back, lest my worldly interests should suffer. Teach me to give Thee my entire heart and love Thee above all. I seek not outward asceticism, not the poverty of raiment and food, but the poverty of the spirit. Let my soul be like a ragged beggar, cut away from the world, and delighting always in Thee and the riches of Thy grace.

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## SEEING GOD ALWAYS.

**T**HOU hast made the question Where art Thou? impossible with all believers. For as soon as we ask that question, lo! Thou revealest Thyself in the heart. Thou art never far from us. Nor dost Thou ever hide Thy face. It is we that wilfully shut our eyes, and would not see Thee. If we open our eyes we behold Thee everywhere. Near and far, within and without, art Thou, O Omnipresent Spirit. So brightly dost Thou shine in all space that no believer can miss Thee. We thank Thee, dear Father, for this precious privilege. We bless Thy name that Thou hast made it impossible for us not to see Thee.

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*October 31, 1875.*

## COMMUNION OF HOLY MEN.

REVEAL Thyself to me, O Lord, in the character of good and holy men. Thou dost make Thy abode in the hearts of Thy servants, and dost preside over the great impulses and deeds of their life. Enable me to find Thee there, that by the light of their examples I too may form my character. Make it impossible for me to doubt or distrust the motives of those who are inspired by Thy breath. If in aught I cannot do as they do, give unto me the fairness and kindliness of heart to have faith in their uprightness and fidelity. Teach me, O Lord, the deep lesson of reverence to the good man. Vouchsafe unto me the unspeakable happiness of loving and learning of the elder brother in spirit. Lay down the genuine, lasting, and due relationship of soul to soul, amongst those whom Thou hast brought together.

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*November 14, 1875.*

## TRUE SPIRIT OF ASCETICISM.

EVEN for the little I have sacrificed for Thy sake and for the mortification of the flesh men praise me, O God, and many there are who condemn me. But my Father, I feel ashamed of myself when I reflect that I am far from being worthy of such commendation or condemnation. I am not an ascetic, though I would be, and I feel grieved when

the world gives me credit for what I do not possess. Many, many miles I have yet to traverse before I reach the country of the devoted ascetics, many sins yet to sacrifice, and a great deal of pride, carnality and ambition yet to renounce. O my Saviour, as I increase in years may I grow in the true spirit of asceticism!

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PRAYER FOR THE PRINCE OF WALES

**O** GOD of all nations, the eldest son of our earthly sovereign has reached our shores. Cause Thy blessings to descend on him, Lord, and his advisers, and make him an instrument in Thy hands for the promotion of peace, prosperity and righteousness in this land. Protector of kings and potentates, keep the Prince of Wales from false counsel and from all that is evil, and keep his heart firmly set on Thee and Thy law. Open his eyes that he may see and understand the people over whom he will one day be called to rule, and so quicken his heart that he may truly love the country and its people. Grant that the joyful and loyal enthusiasm which his visit has inspired among the nobility and the people be productive of lasting fruits, even purity, mutual goodwill and happiness for evermore.

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NARROWNESS OF BIGOTRY.

**N**OW shall I, O Lord, eschew narrowness and bigotry? I hate and shun everybody who happens to differ from me in opinion, and have no

pleasure in his company. I have not love enough to embrace men of differing, much less opposite, views. I have affection for those few only who are wholly of my ways of thinking. In endeavouring to honor truth I have become a narrow-minded sectarian. O God, teach me love and forbearance, and grant that while I pity the errors of my brethren as I pity their moral turpitude, I may always show the utmost regard for honest opinion. May I cherish a loving heart for all.

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## GOD ALONE.

**W**E desire to follow Thee, O God, and Thee alone, for Thou art our only Master and King. There is no peace, no piety in following men. They speak differently and their words mislead. How can we please the world, Lord? Some tell us to do this and others insist on our doing that, and in our attempts to please one class of men we inevitably dissatisfy another class. The heart finds no peace in going to satisfy so many masters. Nor does the world reveal the true way to those that rely upon its guidance. How often, Father, have we been led into the path of evil by those whom we trusted! Therefore have we resolved never to follow man's biddings, but always to obey Thy saving voice.

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*November 21, 1875.*

## HARMONY OF WORK AND DEVOTION.

**T**OO much work, O God, makes the heart dry, and too much devotion induces quietism and makes one neglect the important duties of life. How shall I, Lord, harmonize the two? How shall I be devout in the midst of my daily duties, and be mindful of my duties in the midst of absorbing devotion? I seek not those hollow prayers, those silent and solitary meditations which involve the least breach of that practical allegiance which I owe to Thee as my Master, nor do I seek that empty, though busy, righteousness which always works, but knows not the sweetness of loving devotion. Enable me, O Merciful Father, so to combine duty and devotion that while the hand works out Thy law like an untiring machine, the heart may be always warm with Thy love.

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GOD'S VOICE MY GUIDE.

**L**IFE would be unendurable if I were deprived of the privilege of hearing Thy voice, O my God, in the universe and in the sanctuary within. My strength and happiness, my wisdom and purity all proceed from Thy inspiring voice. If Thy words did not guide and cheer me, how weak, blind and miserable I would be. There is none on earth to teach me, none to strengthen me in the hour of temptation, none to rescue me from danger. Upon Thy word, therefore, I place my entire reliance

and found all my hopes for time and eternity in the dark and dangerous paths of life. Do Thou constantly guide and comfort me, Loving Spirit, with words of light and love, and grant that I may always feel that I have One within and near me ever ready to speak to me sweet and kind words

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LOYALTY TO EARTHLY SOVEREIGN.

LOYALTY to our earthly sovereign is one of the ties with which, God Almighty, Thou dost bind nations and communities for their mutual improvement and the extension of Thy holy kingdom of love and peace. By placing them under the shadow of a common reigning power, Thou removest dissensions and anarchy, oppression and cruelty, and makest them work together as fellow-subjects for their material and moral advancement in a spirit of unity and fellowship. O God, grant that the visit of our future Emperor may so unite all the differing and opposing races in this country in the bonds of loyal fellowship that we may all learn to work peacefully and harmoniously for the benefit of our corporate life, and foregoing all party feelings and disputes merge our differences in a united demonstration of loyalty to the Prince and to Queen Victoria's throne. May Europeans and Natives of all classes, may Hindus, Mahomedans, Buddhists, Parsis and Brahms form a loyal and loving brotherhood in this season of universal rejoicing!

## FOR THE EDITORS OF NEWSPAPERS.

**D**IRECT the intellect and regulate the hearts, O Lord, of all those who are charged with the conduct of journals and newspapers in this country. Great is the power they possess. If rightly used, it will prove a blessing to the land, but if abused, it will prove a source of endless mischief. Therefore, O Merciful God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy guidance to the editors of newspapers and help them to do their work according to Thy will. Deliver them from jealousy and rancour, from partiality and injustice, from lying and misrepresentations and grant that their writings may not in any way injure public morals. Teach them to write truthfully and temperately, and make the Press, O God, a potent instrument in Thy hand for the moral elevation of the country.

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*November 28, 1875.*

## UNKNOWN AND UNRECOGNISED.

**V**OUCHSAFE unto me, O Lord, the secret soul of religion. Let Thy spirit penetrate into the innermost core of my being, and leave its purity there. Merciful Lord, protect me from all vain show of spirituality, and grant that my face may wear the virgin veil of modesty. The wicked wish of man's heart is to steal the reverence of others by a false exhibition of virtue, and religious practice. My God, I pray to Thee, deliver me from this evil. My longing is to live in Thy secret dwelling-place, to

know Thy counsels in secret and obey them with the fidelity and loving obedience that court and call no notice. I am not strong enough to be able to bear the flattery of men, nor am I strong enough to be able to bear undeserved cruelty. I entreat Thee, therefore, hide me completely within the folds of Thy Spirit that I may pass by unknown and unrecognized, known to thee only in my uttermost need of Thy help and grace.

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## AT THE FEET OF GOD'S FAITHFUL CHILDREN.

I would love him, O my God, that loveth Thee truly ; I would sit at the feet of him who sitteth at Thy feet. Thy feet are very beautiful, have I not seen them ? That beauty I would know and admire in him whom Thou hast honoured with the name of Thy servant. My soul knoweth no creed, nor caste, nor youth, nor age. Wherever Thy faithful children are, there I would go ; there, O Lord, lead me.

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## HUMILITY.

WHEN I sit before Thee, Lord, I feel how small I am. Even smaller than a grain of mustard seed am I. Before Thy immensity, I am as nothing. I am as a little drop lost in the boundless ocean of Thine infinite presence. Why then this pride, this self-sufficiency that kills me ? Am I worth anything, O God, that I should boast of my



knowledge and power? Thou hast humbled me to the dust, and I cannot raise my head. O my God, make me humble all the days of my life.

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## HARBOUR OF THEISM.

**W**E thank Thee, Father, that Thou hast brought us into the harbour of Theism, and saved us from the thousand dangers of a stormy sea. Surely we would have perished had we not under Thy merciful guidance in due time found shelter in Thy saving Church. Either infidelity or worldliness or sensuality would have ruined us. But having found Thy truth we rejoice. Heartily do we rejoice, O God, that in this land enveloped in gloom we have seen the light of Heaven. We thank Thee that we are Brahmos, and have tasted the sweets of living prayer unto Thee, O Living God. Save us, save us for Thy mercy's sake.

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*December 5, 1875*

## FOR PURITY.

**I** AM happy and unhappy, O my God, Happy because I have found refuge in Thy love and tasted the sweets of communion. Unhappy because I am so unworthy of the place Thou hast accorded to me under Thy feet, and because I am still a wicked sinner in spite of Thine unbounded mercies. For Thy dear name's sake, O Lord, remove all the

causes of my unhappiness, and make my life one blessed career of peace and happiness, such as conscientious purity alone renders possible. There must be misery and wretchedness so long as there is sin in me. Lord, make me pure, and I will rejoice in Thee always.

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TRUE FRIENDS.

FATHER, give me such friends and companions as will rebuke my follies and by wholesome chastisement help me to draw away from vicious habits. There are many around me who are constantly praising my virtues and extolling my merits, but their flattery vitiates me. As Thou guidest and punishest me from above, grant, Merciful God, that I may have here below among my earthly comrades true friends who by precepts and example, by continued watching and stern remonstrances keep me in the right path.

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*December 12, 1875.*

THOROUGH SANCTIFICATION.

IS it possible for me, O Helper of struggling souls, to attain complete emancipation from sin in this life? Can man's impure heart be thoroughly sanctified and regenerated before he dies? Tell me, O God. I am continually and constantly struggling with temptations, and my impatient heart cries for

a hopeful response to this solemn query. Thou hast taught my hands to stand aloof from impure deeds, and my tongue from foul words. Carry now Thy sanctifying spirit into my inmost heart, and chasten every desire and thought. I wish to be thoroughly cleansed. I pant for complete redemption from the bondage of iniquity. O Lord, make me altogether clean, and grant that temptations and sins may not even venture to approach me.

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FOR EUROPEANS.

W<sup>ORD</sup>, vouchsafe Thy light unto all European residents in this country. Diverse motives have brought them to this land, and in diverse fields of work are they employed. Their main object is to promote their own worldly interests. Surrounded by an alien nation with whose habits and customs, ideas and sentiments they do not and cannot sympathise, and of whose political inferiority they are fully conscious, they are exposed to temptations and trials from which only Thy hand, God Almighty, can save them. Teach them to love the people with whom they have been brought in contact. Teach them to pity our failings, forgive our weaknesses, respect our sacred traditions, and help us in our struggles for advancement. Persuade them, O Lord, to treat us with paternal solicitude and tenderness, for we are weak and require their protection.

*December 19, 1875.*

FASCINATING LOVE OF GOD

**N**ONE eye hath not seen Thee, O Thou Soul of Beauty, nor hath mine ear heard Thy sweet voice, else why should the world yet have temptation for me? Thy service is not attractive to me, else why should I neglect it for a single day? O my glorious Father, conquer me entirely with the holy handsomeness of Thy face. O my sweet Mother, fascinate me with Thy unspeakable love

INFINITE SOURCE OF BRIGHTNESS.

**I**NSPIRE me with Thy breath, Thou Infinite Source of Brightness, and let me behold all thing clearly in Thy light.

WHOLE-HEARTED LOVE.

**B**EHOLD, O my God, how the resources of my nature have been wasted upon the world. I have devoted an undue measure of my affections to those men and things that will pass away, and in passing away shall leave a desert behind in my heart. Thee I have very feebly loved, Thou who art my portion, and my all in this life, and in eternity. Regulate my affections, and my energies, that nothing may be wasted and nothing unduly taken

away by objects that are not worthy. Teach me, O God, to give Thee my whole love, and when Thou hast it, dispose of it as seemeth best in Thy sight.

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## FOR OUR SISTERS IN FAITH.

I WOULD pray to Thee, O God of Mercy, for the welfare of those of my countrywomen who have embraced Thy holy faith. Deficient in the light of knowledge, deficient in experience and self-government, they are in the midst of great danger. Shield them therefore with the protecting wings of Thy paternal love, and offer them the holy guidance of Thy Spirit. Shed the light of cheerfulness and piety in the heart of our matrons, and teach them to walk in the path of duty and usefulness. Keep the pure brow of our virgins uncontaminated by evil and temptation, and vouchsafe unto them always an increasing measure of holiness and wisdom. Enable us to train up our children in the ways of goodness and virtue. And in every way make us worthy to be called Thy family.

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*December 26, 1875.*

## FUTURITY.

ALL things that befall me in the present, O Lord, are eloquent with Thy will as to what my future will be. Trial and trouble, failure and humiliation surround me. These show that I have not

been what Thou didst wish I should be. Make me able to read Thy teachings aright. Suffer me to gather in the wisdom which my circumstances, all ordered by Thee, involve. Command the present to impress upon my heart Thine will in the future. Enable me to obey Thee with the cheerfulness of freedom. Thou art ever anxious and active for the salvation of the world. Why should I not cast in my lot with Thee? My God, let me interpret Thy purposes in the work of Thy providence, and fulfil them with mind, heart and will.

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HIDDEN LOVE.

**Y**ET HOW deep and hidden is Thy love, O Lord! Who is more affectionate unto us than Thou art? Yet Thou keepest Thy heavenly love concealed from man, all the while most busily employed in providing for his good. Thy actions for the highest and holiest good of man, proclaim Thy love. Teach me to love my fellow-men with a similar love of unexpressed depth, inwardly active for service, outwardly calm and unimpassioned. Thine highest command is to love others. How can we, O God, obey this beautiful command, unless our love is purified from all earthly and carnal dross? Make us therefore the partakers of Thine holy affection for Thy children, that we may be co-workers with Thee in the blessed work of others' good.

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EVER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

**MY** company of a good man has a purifying effect upon the mind. Infinitely more sanctifying must Thy presence be, O Thou Holy God. Why is it then that my heart is not yet cleansed though I sit with Thee every day, and am encompassed by Thy holy presence? Perhaps Thy real presence I do not feel or I would be thrilled and sanctified by its electrifying effect. Teach me then, O God, not to imagine a presence, but to realize in all its seriousness the fact that Thou Holy One art actually sitting before me.

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ALWAYS PROGRESS.

**MY** God, I have watched and studied the lives of many of my fellow-believers, and have come to the conclusion that there is a limit to religious progress beyond which men seem unable to advance. Earnestly and joyfully they begin their religious life, and they run on with rapid strides, overcoming all obstacles and difficulties in their way. Through Thy grace, Kind Father, they acquire wisdom, love, purity and peace in a great measure. Having reached a certain point they then recede, and their lives thenceforth manifest weakness, vacillation, worldliness and despondency. In spite of their struggles they cannot advance. Lord, very few indeed get beyond this fatal limit, and those who do, succeed only because of Thy merciful interposition. Grant that I may always progress and never halt in the path of duty and devotion.

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*January 9, 1876.*

## PRAYER IN ILLNESS.

**I**N disease, and in the feebleness of my heart, I call upon Thee, my God. When I enjoyed the priceless gift of health, I trifled with it. I did not make the right use of the powers of my body. Now that I am stretched on the bed of pain and feebleness, I remember my shortcomings and am filled with vain regret. Lord, if I ever recover my health and spirits again, teach me to consecrate them to Thee and Thy work. If I rise never more to enjoy the physical gifts Thou didst once bless me with, enable me to look up to Thee with resignation and faith. But whether I shall be well again or not, give unto me in the midst of my sufferings and feebleness Thy grace, the blessed consciousness of Thy nearness, that even in pain and weakness I may find my repose in Thee.

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TO PURIFY OUR DOMESTIC RELATIONS.

**T**EACH us, O Lord, to purify and exalt the domestic relations of our life. The affection that binds us to our own is sacred, it is but the recast of Thy loving care for Thy family. As Thy living relation with us all is pure, ever-ennobling, ever-productive of goodness and happiness, so may our affection for each other be. We pray to Thee that we may never lack in doing what is our share towards the lasting wisdom and peace of those who are naturally related to us, who love and are loved with genuine tenderness. May we be able to make them;



and they to make us holier and heavenlier day by day. Make our family the seat of every virtue and grace, where Thou mayst dwell with us evermore.

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#### BRAHMO MISSIONARIES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

**W**E beseech Thee, O God, feed, clothe, and take care of all those who have taken the vow of Thy missionary service. Friends in this world they have but few, none to think of them, and keep their families from sufferings of body and mind. Even good men look down upon them, heed not their cries because they are poor missionaries. They have no claim upon any one but upon Thee, O Lord, whose servants they are. Cast upon them Thy pitying glance. Protect them and their dear ones from suffering and sorrow, train up their uncared for children in virtue and in truth, give cheerfulness and good consolation to their dejected wives, that in all things they may all be worthy of that love which Thou undoubtedly bearest for them.

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*January 16, 1876.*

#### FOR LASTING FRUITS OF UTSAVS.

**O**UR anniversary festival draws near, Lord. Do Thou prepare our hearts, and so increase our faith, earnestness and devotion that the season may be profitable unto us. How many such devotional festivals have we enjoyed by Thy grace! But 'their

fruits have not proved lasting. The festival that abides in the heart give Thou unto us, that we may rejoice not for a day or week only, but everlastingly.

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## A PURE HEART

IF THERE is nothing so precious, O God, as a pure heart, and it is this which I lack. I have sought it for years, and prayed for it, but I have not found it yet. Wilt Thou not by the miraculous interposition of Thy redeeming grace crush my sins completely, and give me the treasure of a clean heart, without which religion is a mockery, and my daily prayers the supplications of a hypocrite? Do give me that, O merciful Father, and, whether I am rich or poor, I shall be happy:

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## FOR THE SMALLER VIRTUES.

IN endeavouring to realize great objects and high principles I have failed in little things. Perhaps I was ambitious, O God, and my ambition has ruined me. I went about in quest of the Kingdom of Heaven, taught others how to live as a holy family, and always talked eloquently of regeneration, heavenly life and such things. But my pride, O Lord, Thou hast confounded. For I feel that even the smaller virtues, such as veracity, honesty, kindness to the poor, are far from me. Teach me not to neglect these simple duties and keep me, Kind God, from the baser forms of iniquity.

## TO TURN AWAY FROM THINGS TRANSITORY.

**ALMIGHTY** God, my forefathers believed in the unreality of the material universe, and took care not to fasten their affections on earthly things. Though I do not regard what I see around me as altogether unreal, teach me, Lord, to look upon the fascinating objects of the senses as hollow and transitory, and grant that I may never set my heart upon them, but upon the realities of the spirit-world. May I love Thee, Spirit Eternal, above all things, and turn away from the baubles of the world.

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*January 23, 1876.*

## TO BE PERFECT AS THE FATHER IS PERFECT.

**OH** Friend Unseen ;—daily, hourly Helper, Teacher, Comforter, Confider, Father ;—Help me to make some return to Thee, or Thine, for these accumulating heaps of good, and piled up blessings. Do not crush me with the thought that to whom much is given of him much will be required ; and that according as I receive so much I give. Oh these blessed opportunities ! these multiplying trusts ! these ever-recurring invitations to be good and do good as Thou art, and as Thou doest ;—and to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect ! What can I do but say that I love Thee,—and more and more try to make it true. Say that I love Thy children, my fellow-men, the poor and the poorest, the weak and the weakest, the vile and the vilest ;—the evil and the good, the just and the

unjust, and seek continually better ways of making them wise and true; of aiding them to see Thee even as I see Thee, shining through my darkest, saddest hours and most sinful gloom, with unwearied love and overpowering beneficence. If I have wronged any man, Oh Father, may I go and be just to my brother, my sister, thy children, before I dare offer my gift to Thee. May we all increasingly resemble Thee, as sons and daughters follow the example and live the life of a good father and mother. Oh Spirit of Life and Love and Wisdom and Strength and Truth and Goodness and Justice and Mercy and Holiness, show me Thy way, in all Thy works and in man Thy best work; in Thy holy children and the holiest that have trod the earth, honouring Thee our Father, in spite of scorn and hatred. So win me to be Thine forever.

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*January 30, 1876.*

MY SALVATION A WITNESS UNTO THY MERCY.

**W**HET my salvation, O Lord, and that of others like me, bear witness to the truth of my religion. The world is then only convinced when they behold sinners saved. Let my life be a sufficient testimony unto myself of Thy grace. Lord, give unto me peace in the midst of my struggles, strength to overcome my feebleness, and purity of will to be obedient and faithful to Thee. Let my salvation be a miracle unto me, and unto all others who know me. Save me in Thy power, O Good Lord.

## PERFECT PURITY.

**T**OUCHSAFE unto me perfect pure-mindedness,  
 O Lord, in relation to the other sex. O let the chastity of my sight, feeling, thought, and imagination be able to bear the utmost scrutiny of Thy all-seeing-eye. Purify to the utmost all my relations with my wife, my sisters, and all those who inherit the holy attribute of Thy motherhood. Let all carnality be banished for ever from my heart, which do Thou condescend to make Thy pure habitation. I am unfit yet, O Lord, to associate with Thy daughters, because I have not known the right attitude of mind towards them. When wilt Thou make me fit to be a member of Thy household, where Thy children, both sons and daughters, all reside in perfect peace and purity? O Thou Holy One, deliver me not only from the evil of temptation, but make all temptation impossible to me.

My son, drink always of the fountain of my purity, let my holiness be as a crown unto Thee, and rejoice in my righteousness without hesitation. In my holy household I will make a place for Thee, where thou shalt abide for ever. Amen!

*February 13, 1876.*

## IN THE INNER SANCTUARY.

**H**EAD me, O Thou God of prayer, to the place of communion which is wholly beyond the world, and where no earthly influences can any longer reach me. The house of worship built here is not unassailable, behold how the fatal noose of worldliness fastened round the soul, draws her away from thence

very easily I want to be at a place where the earth cannot find me. Where is that place but in Thee O Lord? Thou art Thine own sanctuary, Thine true altar is established in Thee. Thou fillest Thy own house, Thou art all in all there. Lead Thou me therefore within Thee to worship and to communion to behold Thee, and be with Thee for ever.

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## LOVE GOD ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.

TELL me O Lord, what is more valuable or more beautiful in life than the wealth of deep and genuine love? Nothing is more worthy of Thee than that. Such love I have frittered away on the poor and passing objects of this world, reserving nothing for Thee but vain hollow professions. My God, I feel that my affection has been wasted, and the waste has brought on me much humiliation and self-reproach. To Thee, and to others who in Thee are truly worthy, I have given nothing; to the unworthy, to those who insult, and trample upon my affection, I have given all. O, if I had loved Thee with half the intensity which I have thrown away upon worthless pleasure and beauty, Thou wouldst not have left me alone in my shame and sorrow. But human folly will never know Thy value, the carnal man will never behold the beauty of Thy Spirit. Descend, O Thou fountain of all that is lovely and good, descend to fill my soul with Thy grace, that in Thee I may regain what I have lost, receive what I have hitherto withheld and find the peace of devoting my whole heart to Thee.

## INFINITE CAPACITY FOR GOODNESS IN US.

**W**HAT unbounded capacities of goodness and purity hast Thou implanted in man's soul my gracious God, and how poor is the use I have made of them. Return, and teach me to bless Thee and enjoy the inheritance wherewith Thou hast amply surrounded me. Enable me to make the fitting use of my opportunities and gifts, that I may find the power of calling myself Thy servant and Thy son.

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*February 20, 1876.*

## PURITY AND PEACE.

**G**OD of joy, Thou art blissful because Thou art ever pure. How can I pray for peace, without praying for purity? A reproachful conscience will not give man any rest. Therefore my supplication to Thee will for ever be for the possession of a clean heart. Purge my soul from every vice, from every thing that takes away the freedom and cheerfulness of enjoying the light of Thy holy face.

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## JUDGING OTHERS.

**D**ELIVER me always from the terrible responsibility of judging my brothers, O Lord. and from the fatal ambition of being a teacher unto others set me free.

## DEPENDENT YET INDEPENDENT.

**M**AKE me dependent yet independent of human sympathy, dependent where I can by others' sympathy serve Thee and find Thee, independent where by courting the good feeling of others I fail to profit by the trials and difficulties of life. Whatever befalls, let me always be assured that Thy arm supports me.

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*February 27, 1876.*

## DEEP COMMUNION.

**N**OW much of imaginary and unreal religion I shall have to leave to attain Thy true knowledge, and enjoy the blessedness of Thy presence, O Lord, teach me. The sweetness of so-called devotion is not Thy communion always, nor is the brightness of the mind to be always called the glory of Thy presence. It is true those things come in Thy name, they come and go, but never last. The seer knows they are not Thy true sight. Seeing Thee who can ever forget, and Thy communion once enjoyed absorbs a man at all times. Suffer me to go down into the very depths of Thy being, to know all that a soul like mine can, and should know for it is good to behold Thee and know Thee, and live in Thee with heart, mind and will.



## SOW WITH THE SWEAT OF THY BROW.

**G**OD, prosper those who set out to seek Thee in right humility of spirit. Reveal Thyself unto those who wait for Thee. May Thy blissfulness be their portion who have consented to bear the load of privation for Thy sake. God, Thou art the giver of all rewards, and diligence and painstaking patience are never lost sight of by Thee. Let Thy servants whom Thou hast chosen, sow with the sweat of their brow, labour in rain and sunshine, suffer and sacrifice in Thy name what they hold dear, and when Thou thinkest fit Thou shalt give them that abundance, which when a man reaps never sorrows or suffers in this life again.

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*March 5, 1876.*

## INNER LIGHT.

**T**HANK Thee, O blessed God, for the light with which Thou dost renew and clothe the world every morning. I adore Thee for the beauty and splendour which nature everywhere displays under that light. Teach me to seek the inner light which is far more renovating, and glorifying, and, under its beneficent influence, teach me to find the sweetness and sanctity of Thy face.

## SECRETS OF THE HEART.

**S**OUL of my soul, who but Thou can understand the secrets of my heart? When wilt Thou permit me to understand the secrets of Thy purpose towards me? Essence of all beauty, when wilt Thou charm me with Thy incomparable presence? Behold how my heart is anxious to enter the domain of Thy righteousness. I am bruised with the thoughts of sin. Give me, O Lord, the healing of Thy embrace. I am smitten with the false fatal glare of youth and pleasure. The chaste holy handsomeness of Thy face do Thou reveal unto me.

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*March 12, 1876.*

## GIVE THY HEART TO GOD.

**M**Y son, give me Thy heart. Who knows or understands Thy difficulties as I do, and who can remove them? The harmony which Thou seekest is nowhere in the world; the wisdom, the peace, and the purity which Thou wouldst have, no one can give but Myself. Why followest Thou vain phantoms here below? There is no love in the world, it is all vexation and disappointment. I am worthy of Thy love. Love Thou me, and be still, and free from care. My Father, take my heart. Thou knowest all my thoughts, and canst remove all the difficulties in my way. Everything is vain, false, and disappointing around me. Thou alone art true and abiding as Thou art holy, beautiful and good. Teach

me to love Thee, and be still in the depth of Thy communion.

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*March 19, 1876.*

LET ME NOT ROVE.

LET me not rove, O my God, but may I settle  
in life ere it is too late. I must be miserable  
if I know not why I am here or what I have to do.  
To go about like a houseless wanderer from place to  
place, from one sphere of work to another, to be  
driven to and fro by outward circumstances, without  
a plan of life, without fixed principles of faith and  
character, argues self-willed infidelity. From this  
evil, O Lord, deliver me. Give me a house to live  
in, and definite work to perform, that I may be always  
Thine.

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A QUIET AND TRANQUIL HEART.

THOU dost reflect Thine image, O Lord, upon  
still waters. But if my heart is unsteady and  
restless like the stormy sea I cannot see Thee.  
Subdue all inclinations and dispel all thoughts and  
anxieties which ruffle my temper and make it refract  
the sweet light of Thy image. Give me, Father, a  
quiet and tranquil heart, above all the distractions  
of the world, so that I may always behold with joy  
Thy holy and tender face reflected in my own inner  
self

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A DEPARTED BISHOP.

**U**PON the soul of the departed Bishop of Calcutta may Thy blessings rest, O Father of us all. Grant that those to whom he ministered during his days on earth, may cherish and follow the example he set of philanthropy, toleration, and untiring zeal. For Thy mercy's sake, God Almighty, convert every professing Christian in this land into a moral power for the good of the country

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MESSENGERS FROM HEAVEN.

**T**EACH me, Merciful God, to honour those immortal saints whom Thou sendest now and then from the world beyond the grave into my inner sanctuary. May I gratefully bow before them as my benefactors and the benefactors of mankind. May I welcome them and receive and profit by the messages which they bring as emissaries from the land of joy and blessedness! And may I accommodate them in my heart as my honoured guests as often as they come, and in their company grow in love and purity!

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*March 26, 1876.*

## BEARING THE CROSS.

**B**UILD up for me the cross, O Lord, whereon my earthly affections and desires may be nailed and sacrificed for Thy glory. Make mine the peace

that results from resigned self-sacrifice. Every relation whose source cannot be consciously traced to Thee is the cause of endless trouble and every wish that Thou dost not bless is born to grieve the spirit. The load of trouble and grief that comes out of the weakness of the heart, teach me, O Lord, to bear with patience and meekness. Draw out the thorns in my flesh, even though the process will cause me to bleed exceedingly, and cure me from the deep disease of my soul.

Happy are they that learn, in Thee,  
 Though patient suffering teach  
 The secret of enduring strength,  
 And praise too deep for speech—  
 Peace that no pressure from without,  
 No strife within, can reach.

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#### THE SORROW OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

THE sorrow of Thy righteous servants is turned into blessedness by Thy compassion, O God of loving kindness. It is not true that Thou createst no sorrow, but the strength of perfect love converts it into the profound freshness of a new joy. Man's sufferings are great but they only can give him an insight into the depths of Thy tranquillity. Wound and mortify my spirit as Thou wilt, only give me in the end the healing consciousness of Thy sympathy.

"Oh, this is blessing, this is rest—  
 Into Thine arms, O Lord, I flee:  
 I hide me in Thy faithful breast,  
 And pour out all my soul to Thee."

## MY ACCUSERS.

UPON those who look down upon me with scorn and disapprobation, God cause Thy mercy to descend. Upon those who take pleasure to contradict, accuse, and humiliate me, send Thy abundant grace. There are some who have spoken hard words to me, there are some who have ill-used such persons as I honour and love, there are some who have thrown me at a distance, O God bless them all, and reform their ways

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*April 2, 1876.*

## SPOTLESS PURITY.

GOD, our Divine Mother, we pray to Thee for the spotless spiritual virginity that dwells with Thee for ever. Make all evil thoughts utterly foreign to me; wash out all the many stains of my heart; and cause all vile imaginations to be impossible. Enable me to devote all my days, and all my powers to Thy holy service, and the good of mankind. Mine eyes, mine hands, mine mouth, my whole being wash Thou clean, and void of offence. Our Mother as Thou dost combine tenderness with purity, and art beautiful only in Thy goodness, so cause my soul to be like unto Thee. Let me honour sanctity in all, in men, and in women especially; let me bow in deep humility and reverence before those daughters of Thine whom Thou hast honoured with the eternal virginity of Thy nature.

## GROWTH IN SAINTLINESS.

THE saints above seem to say unto me, O God, 'T'hat my prayers are hollow and my communion unreal. Compared to their faith, their devotion, and their joy, my spiritual progress is as nothing. What I have known, and tasted of Thy sweetness is but a drop compared to the ocean of blessedness in which they live immersed. Make this conviction strong, O God, that it may curb my pride, and make me always humble. It is a pleasure to know how little I am when that knowledge is accompanied by the hope that even this my little life will expand into the fuller and heavenlier life of the saints above in the fullness of time, and that I shall live to be quite as happy as they are now.

## LOVE TO ENEMIES.

WE pray unto Thee, God of Love, for the welfare of all our opponents and enemies in the world, and of all those who hate and curse us. There are many whom we have irritated by our misdeeds and vices, our pride, and selfishness, and our insolence. Others have become our enemies because of our reformed faith and practices. Others dislike us because they do not know us and often misunderstand us. Father, do good to all such men, and help us to forgive and forget their enmity. Teach us to love them as our brethren in spite of their antagonism. May we always bear in mind Thy holy injunction that though others may be our sworn enemies we have no right to be enemies unto others!

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April 9, 1876

## THE DEEPER REALITIES.

**A**PPEAL to the sense of my soul, O Lord, and there enable me to behold and understand the hidden relations of things. The five senses delude and smother the soul, they misinterpret the objects and uses of life. The knowledge that comes through them comes with an appeal to the desire of enjoyment and possession. The relations which they would encourage are the short-lived earthly relations that surely cause misery. Even the religion they foster is the tainted religion of the world. O Spirit Supreme, teach me all knowledge from within, cause me to foster the relations that are born and fed in the spirit: give unto me that spiritual religion that grows within the soul, that interprets all things, enjoys all things there.

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TRUE HOPE.

**W**ITHOUT hope no man can live, hope is life's sustenance. But to centre any hope in man is to court sure disappointment. There is only one source from which the fulfilment of hope can come, and that is, O my God, Thyself. Let me entertain such hopes only as Thou dost justify, Thou shalt bless them with fulfilment.



*April 23, 1875.*

## OUR VICEROY.

**W**HILESS our new Viceroy and Governor-General, God Almighty, and vouchsafe unto him such light and strength as may enable him to govern this country unto Thy glory. Grant that he may rule justly and mercifully the millions Thou hast entrusted to his care, promoting their material as well as moral prosperity.

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## THE BETTER LAND.

**W**HERE is that home into which saints and prophets and all Thy devoted servants have gone to enjoy rest and peace evermore? My heart longs to go there, and join that happy band. But I cannot. My time has not come yet. I am still enchained by sin and fettered by worldliness. My spirit is not free. My heart is not pure. Set me free, Kind God, from the trammels of sin and make my heart clean, that I may be worthy of the better land above. And when the time comes show me the way, that I may walk with Thee into the mansions of light and joy.

## COMPANIONSHIP OF SAINTS AND PROPHETS.

WHERE is my beloved Christ, Lord? I wish to see him. And where is Thy soul-entranced devotee, Chaitanya? Where is Socrates? Where are Janaka and Sukdeb? Where are Nanak and Kabir? Where they are my heart wishes to be. They have won my affections, and I cannot live without them. But alas! my wicked heart cannot go there. Grant then, Merciful Father, that those holy and saintly spirits may come and abide in my heart. In their company I shall find heaven.

## LOVE

GOING God, how sweet is it to love! How happy he who loves! I have tasted the sweets of love through Thy grace. I pray I may learn at Thy feet to love yet more warmly and tenderly. May my love grow and expand day after day, embracing friends and foes, men of my faith and country, and men of other persuasions and countries, all sects and communities without prejudice! Teach me, Father, to love those who stand outside the pale of my love and sympathy, and grant that I may be more lovingly attached to those whom I love.

April 30, 1876.

## DIVINE GUIDANCE.

SPIRIT of God, All-seeing witness of the deepest thoughts that are unexpressed, guide a soul that has long looked up to Thee in trust and reliance.

Thou dost cause light to come out of darkness, and good to come out of evil. Confound all that is wicked in me and turn my feelings and inclinations which are so easily misled into the paths of righteousness and Thy holy will.

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## SPECIAL PROVIDENCE.

HELP me, O Lord, to find my place in Thy Kingdom, teach me to discover the unfailing aids that surely lead to Thee. My God, if my trust and dependence in Thee be real, fasten them upon the right relations and duties of life. Let Thy Providence be unto me embodied in real events and objects which preclude all doubt and question. When the time of trial comes, enable me to hold by that which Thou hast pointed out to me. As Thou art Thyself ever infallible, so the ways appointed by Thee are infallible.

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## INTERCESSION.

LORD, cause Thy blessings to descend upon those to serve whom we labour and are always anxious. May the men and women unto whom we minister be aided and cheered by Thy Spirit. Help to explain our counsels and actions to them, deliver them from the evil that is within them, and rightly establish our relations with them here and hereafter.

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May 21, 1876.

## THE RICH AND THE POOR.

**G**OD, I will not hate the rich, nor will I hate the poor. Give me a heart that shall love and respect all classes of men, and be partial unto none. What have the rich done that I shall abuse and revile them, and think them unworthy of heaven? Riches and poverty are both Thy gifts, and both must be honoured. There is nothing impure in either. Whether therefore men be rich or poor, grant, O Lord, that I may serve all alike as Thy children and therefore my masters.

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## TRUE SELF-CONCEALMENT.

**T**EACH me to hide my deeper life, O my father, <sup>God</sup> so that men may not see it. Let not what I show be a measure of what I am; but mercifully grant that far above the devotion and piety which others see in my outward life, may be the real goodness of my heart which Thou alone canst give and which mortal eye can never see. The roots of godliness can never bear to be exposed; they dry up if exposed. Therefore, O God, keep my true self concealed within me, for if men see and praise it, it will wither away through pride and arrogance. How often have I lost my best possessions because of popular applause! Kind Saviour, whatsoever cannot bear the gaze of others, whatsoever is really good and pure and heavenly in me, do Thou conceal in the depths of my heart.

*June 4, 1876.*

## RESTING IN GOD.

**I**T is not possible to obtain rest in the world, O Lord. Even the dearest and best in it think nothing of wounding us deeply. By Thy merciful dispensation, such wounds tend to do good to the soul but they are often hard to bear. In the fulness of Thy mercy, grant that we may endure our lot with resignation and peace and in perfect trust to Thy beneficent purposes.

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## CONSOLATION.

**G**OD vouchsafe to comfort me. Vouchsafe to be my friend and guide. Chasten my heart, sweeten it with Thy holy chastizement, and console me when I am heavily pressed.

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## WIDOWS AND VIRGINS.

**P**ON all widows and virgins, O holy God, cause Thy blessings to descend. Preserve them always in the light of Thy purity, and let Thy holiness be as a garment to their body and soul. Keep them safely away from the evil eye of bad men, from the speech and reach of Thine enemies who seek the ruin of innocent souls. Let their reputation be always bright and untarnished like the rays of the sun, let their joy be

always to worship Thee, and be Thy handmaidens  
And may their pure influence be the remedy of such  
social evils and corruption as we find around us.

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*June 11, 1876.*

PURITY OF HEART.

GRANT unto me, O Lord, a pure mind that is  
assured in confidence upon Thy approval, and  
I seek no more. Grant unto me a clear conscience that  
lives in the atmosphere of Thy holiness, and I shall  
be satisfied. I would seek not the approbation of  
men and fear not much the evil words men delight  
to utter, only suffer me to be faithful in the service  
to which Thou hast called me. The strength that  
Thou dost bless a good conscience with can defy  
the hardness and injustice of the world's treatment.  
Enable me in all circumstances to preserve my heart  
undefiled.

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ABIDE WITH ME.

MY son rest securely in me, be assured of my  
love and protection, and abide in safety. Do  
not call up Thy fears and suspicions, let not Thy  
imagination delude Thee, when I am at hand to  
succour and rescue Thee. No one that put his trust  
in me, did ever suffer. No one that wept at my  
feet was ever given up. I am nigh unto Thy troubled

heart, despair not; my right hand is ready to save  
Thee, why shouldst Thou sink?

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## MY ONLY STRENGTH.

**MY** God, my Saviour, who is so gracious as  
Thou? A word from Thee is like the water  
of life and joy to me. Thy promise is the rock of  
ages. My Father I would abide safely in Thee even  
when my soul misgives. I will put my trust in Thee  
when my best friends in the worlds have failed me.  
The readiness of Thy right hand to shield me is like  
a fortress of strength to me that defies the wrath of  
sin, and hardness of the world. I bless Thee and  
would do Thy work cheerfully.

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## THY EVERLASTING PRESENCE.

**IN** the darkness of solitude, in the depression of  
melancholy, O Thou God of light visit me.  
Visit me in the still hour of evening when there is  
no one near, visit me in the gloomy hour of midnight  
when the world is buried in gloom. Visit me again  
when I totter alone on the brink of despair and when  
distrusting doubts take away from me the staff of  
my existence. When the fear of death, of desertion,  
of homelessness, of poverty, of degradation stares  
me in the face, and fills me with fright, good, good  
Master, be not far. Fear not, I am with Thee  
always.

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*June 18, 1876.*

THE NEGLECTED ONES.

**C**AUSE Thy blessings to descend O Lord, upon the uncarred—for children of Thy servants, the little boys and girls for whose training few take much care. Turn our hearts in mercy to their welfare, and teach us to take pains for their good. Suffer these little ones to grow up in the path of virtue, and in the knowledge of Thy ways. Bring them up according to the wisdom of Thy providence, and the law of Thy loving kindness, and let them be faithful to the lives and convictions of their parents.

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THE OUTCAST.

**V**SIT the excommunicated and poor in their loneliness, O Lord, and cheer their cold desolation. Teach us to give pity and love when peace of mind has fled, and to speak sweetly unto those who suffer in mind and body. To the home of misery teach us to bring consolation, to the bed of sickness comfort, and always stand by the oppressed and deserted.

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THE PASSION FOR PURITY.

**K**INDLE in me, O holy Spirit, the flame of purity and piety wherewith I may kindle it in those souls who are around me. Create in me a

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depth of sweetness and peace of which I may partake with others. Lord, let my thoughts and feelings be better than my words, my actions better than my feelings and thoughts, and my life better and purer than anything I can outwardly do.

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*June 25, 1876.*

LOVING THE POOR.

POVERTY and humility, vouchsafe O God, unto Thy devoted servants. The world wishes it not, but rather that they should serve Thee and Mammon both. Asceticism is hateful to the world for it is of heaven heavenly. There are thousands among religious men who are as the upper ten, and though pious never sink below the line of respectability. They mix with the aristocracy and are partial to those in high places. The poor they shun, and all that pertains to poverty. Train up devotees, we beseech Thee, who shall be friendly to the poor, and shall honour the surroundings of poverty, so that the largest and most despised section of Thy children may have patrons and friends in them. Who will be friend and minister unto the poor if Thy devotees do not look to them? Good God, grant for the sake of the poor that the more advanced devotees may be perfectly poor in spirit and life.

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THE INNER SANCTUARY.

**I**N the inner sanctuary there is no turmoil Lord ; neither strife nor sorrow is there. How pleasant is it to dwell with Thee there and enjoy serene communion ! Let the world clamour and pierce the sky with its terrific war-cries, nothing can disturb the harmony and peace of the soul that is hid in Thee. Let clouds and storms darken and distract the outward universe, my heart shall lie sweetly absorbed in Thine infinite joy.

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## MY HEAVEN.

**T**HOU in me, and I in Thee this, this. O Eternal Spirit, is my heaven. No other heaven do I seek. Grant Lord that I may always find myself immersed in Thee, and Thy spirit rooted in the depths of my heart. In such profound intercommunion Thy unworthy child shall find joy unutterable.

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## FLOWERS.

**T**HESE flowers, ah ! so beautiful and tender, made by Thy hand, have fascinated me, and I cannot resist their attractions. It is for their sakes that I cannot leave this sweet retreat. The rose and the jessamine on either side seem to say—'Go not' and I cannot go. Dear Lord, may these heavenly flowers teach me love and purity ?

*July 2, 1876.*

## ABSOLUTE SELF-CONSECRATION.

**W**HAT I not a thief and a robber, O God? Have I not stolen this body, wealth and all my earthly possessions which are all due to my brethren and retained them for my own use? Every penny I possess, every drop of blood in my body belongs to others and I cannot use it as mine own. Lord, teach me to consecrate my body and mind and all I have to the service of my brother and sister.

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## SOLITUDE AND SOCIETY.

**A**MID plants and trees, flowers and fruits the heart remains pure and happy and easily learns simplicity, humanity and asceticism. Amid family cares and engagements and the bustle and business, the trials and temptations of society, it is hard, very hard, my God! to become godly. But as Thy child must serve society and achieve purity in the battlefield of life, grant Father, that in the rural retreat amid the beauties of nature, I may be fitted by true communion for the duties and trials of social life.

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*July 9, 1876.*

## A PICTURE OF HEAVEN.

THINKING and being are closely connected. If I think often of the world, its temptations and pleasures, I become worldly; if I think of heaven, I must be heavenly-minded. But how seldom, O my God, do I think of heaven. That sweet and charming picture of heaven which Thou hast shown me to-day, do Thou always hold up before me. How happy that devoted group of Thy loving children gathered round Thy feet; Oh how happy! Father, may I constantly think of their heavenly joy and seek it!

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## SINGLENES OF HEART.

FATHER, dear Jesus loved Thee, and he loved Thee so intensely that he said, "I and my Father are one." O God, teach me that singleness of heart, that obedience of will and child-like trust which Jesus, Thy son, possessed in abundance. May I love Thee as he loved Thee.

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## LOWLINESS.

HOW difficult it is to be poor! I have tried, I have struggled, but poverty, sweet and heavenly poverty is far from me. Lord, I have entered the hermit's cottage, and put on his rude tattered

raiment and I eat and live in a lowly style. Yet am I not poor. My heart is yet the heart of a rich man, proud, haughty and fond of the pleasures and luxuries of the world. O God, humble my spirit, and make my heart poor and lowly.

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## SELF-SURRENDER.

**W**HY do I fancy, O God, that there is such a being as "I" with independent rights and possessions on earth? I, as an independent master, do not exist except in my own imagination. If I exist, O Lord, it is only as a born slave whose every thing is sold and therefore belongs to others. Help me, Father, to realize this my true position, and to feel deeply that not my earthly possessions and even ego itself belong to those around me.

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*July 16, 1876.*

## THE REAL AND THE UNREAL.

**O**NLY the soul's pure gladness of life in Thee is real, O my God, all else, all else is deeply false. I have seen the noble human face in the bloated ugliness of approaching death, the unspeakable foulness and contortions of the last disease, and it all passed away soon into gloom and unconsciousness. I have seen the sun-lit beauty, and healthful fragrance of innocent youth before it passed away into sickness, decay and old age. It is all so sadly

unreal and deceiving ! My God, what miserable mockery is man's hope of life and joy but in thee ? Suffer me, to be secure in Thee, no other safety I seek.. Enable me to feel what cheerfulness I am worthy of only with Thee and in Thy service.

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DIVINE PURITY.

**W**HEN the grace of holiness, my Merciful Saviour, I <sup>do</sup> entreat Thee to bestow. I have longed before Thee for the holiness of flesh and the holiness of spirit and neither of these is yet mine. Untainted and washed out by Thy redeeming mercy let me approach Thy feet ; how can I draw near to Thee with uncleanness still clinging to my heart ? For the living waters of Thy ever-glorious righteousness my spirit thirsts, Thou dost know, O Holy Spirit, vouchsafe to show me the salvation wherein the soul becomes pure for ever.

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NEGLECTED WOMANHOOD.

**F**OR the honour and welfare of Thy neglected daughters I once more lift up my feeble hands in prayer to Thee, O our common Father, suffer all Thy servants to plead for those who cannot plead for themselves. The delicacies and depths of woman's nature Thou alone hast sounded and dost know. We who profess to teach them are ignorant, vain, and unrighteous. Teach them, and give them the light of sober wisdom and piety that they may know

and do the work for which Thou' didst send them here. Enlighten us also that we may not be harsh and unfeeling where we should be kind and sympathetic, that we may not be indulgent and weak where we should be stern and unbending. Above all teach us by truthfulness and purity and a loving disposition to help, and aid each other in going to Thy home in heaven.

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*July 23, 1876.*

HUMILITY.

**G**REAT God, enable me to feel how 'small I am. In Thy majestic presence I am but a worm crawling on the earth, a mere grain of sand. Let me hide myself in shame under an over-powering sense of my utter worthlessness. What am I, O God, before Thee? I am as nothing. Lord teach me humility.

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INDIVIDUALITY.

**T**HIS wicked and miserable individuality! Grant, O God, that I may soon be free from it. I would merge my proud self in Thee and the community. I would have no distinct and selfish personality; I would not live for myself, but for the world. Teach me, my Father, to live in mankind and for the good of mankind. May I be absorbed

in humanity's cause. Lord, root out self and selfishness and make me one with those around me.

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*July 30, 1876.*

DAILY WORK.

TO LORD, I am about to engage myself in my daily work. As worldly business perverts the understanding, deadens spiritual susceptibilities and aspirations, excites avarice, cupidity, jealousy, pride and all the baser passions I humbly surrender myself to Thee and beseech Thee to deliver me from these evils. I cannot venture to enter the regions of worldly trials and temptations without invoking Thy aid. Help me God

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RESIGNATION.

MY friends complain. O my God, that I do not attend sufficiently to the wants of my wife and children. If I neglect my duties to them I am guilty before Thee. But my conscience tells me that in this matter I practise the rule of resignation. My wife and children are in Thy hands. Teach me to believe that I ought not to think anxiously about our food or raiment. May we trustingly worship Thee and serve Thee and leave all the rest with Thee.



*August 6, 1876.*

## ONE BODY.

THOU hast appointed Thy servants, O Lord, to build one house, and not many houses. But they are building each a separate house for himself, because they do not agree, and condemn each other's building. Father, in this disagreement we see our pride, selfishness, and infidelity. There is one dispensation of which we are parts, one body whereof we are members and in one house, O God of providence, hast Thou called us to dwell. May we have such faith and such union?

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## ANGER.

GOD, anger is a fit of passion, which though subdued for a time, returns as soon as exciting causes appear. I have tried these twenty years to control it, but Thou knowest, Master, that I have shamefully failed. Even now, though I have prayed so long, provocation upsets my temper and makes me think of revenge. When I first came unto Thee, my saviour, I brought unto Thee a most unclean and vindictive heart. Thou hast taught me forbearance, but the root of the evil in me is not yet gone, and when trials come I cannot stand. Teach me such love that I may altogether subdue my evil passions.

## BEAUTY.

WHERE is a beauty in Thy face, dear Lord, which  
Thou has fascinated Thy devoted saints above.  
Even to this sinner Thou hast partly revealed it, but  
my heart Thou hast not yet won. O how hard and  
corrupt is my heart. If I see Thee continually shall  
I not love Thee? Yes.

## NEW FLOWERS.

IN the gardens of the world all species of flowers  
have been numbered and classified. But in  
Thy garden in heaven new species grow, which none  
ever saw before. Sweet ideas and sweet joys spring  
up, not only fresh flowers on the same tree, but fresh  
species of flowers, the like of which the heart never  
saw. Who knows what new light and joy Thou wilt  
send to-morrow to Thy humble worshipper?

August 13, 1875.

## TRUE PRAYER.

WORD. I cannot pray unto Thee, day after day,  
for the removal of the same vicious habit,  
unless I am a hypocrite and a confirmed sinner and  
really unwilling to part with favorite sins. One  
sincere prayer, uttered before Thee, out of the depths  
of the heart, is capable of overcoming even the most  
inveterate sin, such is the power of true prayer,

such the power of Thy saving grace. How is it then that though I have prayed a hundred, yea a thousand times, my sins are not yet gone, my heart is still estranged from Thee. Grant, O God, that my prayers may not be vain repetitions, like those of a hypocrite.

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## BHARAT ASRAM.

W<sup>ORD</sup>, let Thy blessing descend in showers upon the Bharat Asram. Though imperfect, and mismanaged by those into whose hands Thou hast entrusted it, it has, so far as it has proved true to Thee, conferred great benefits upon those who have taken shelter in it. Here the homeless have found a home, and the helpless wanderers in life's path has here found rest. Make it, Kind God, more and more a sweet home and a place of education and discipline unto its inmates.

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## PRIDE.

M<sup>ORE</sup> humility vouchsafe unto me, O my Father. Pride is my bitterest enemy. It defiles my heart as nothing else can, and shakes the very foundations of faith, love and purity. I think I am humble if I can only bow reverently before Thee and acknowledge my nothingness. Thus I deceive myself. Before my brother and sister I cannot bring down my arrogant head. The dust of their feet I do not yet accept as the means of my salvation.

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Crush my pride hard as stone, and make me humble and meek.

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## TEARS.

**G**OD, I glorify tears. They are my friend and helper. In them I find light and strength and joy. If my eyes are dry I apprehend danger, for all my enemies seeing that the time is favourable to them begin to attack me. With tears in my eyes I see through them the rainbow colours of heaven, and rejoice. Grant me Lord, tears of love for ever.

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*August 20, 1876.*

## PEACE AND GOODWILL.

**P**RANT, O God, our Father, that all hearts may be united in peace and goodwill before Thy altar to-day. Grant that the sacrifice of our tears and prayers may be acceptable to Thee, and sanctified through our fraternal love for each other. Grant O God of peace, that brother may forgive the offences of brother, and sister may embrace sister in the holiness of their sacred relationship, and all may assemble in Thy house without the least ill-feeling to celebrate Thy goodness, and rejoice over Thy blessed name.

## HUMILITY.

**S**UFFER me, O Lord, to lie low at Thy feet, and be very humble. My pride has offended both men and women, and humiliated me much in my own estimation. I have been a bad example, and I have perverted those whom I should have taught to be meek. For all this, righteous God, chastize me severely, and create in me that poverty of spirit which wills often to conciliate me to those whom my conduct has hardened. Bless me so that I may cease to be a stumbling block in the way of Thy children in Thy house and rather be a help to them in their need.

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## MINE ENEMIES.

**B**ECAUSE Thy blessings to descend, O Lord, upon mine enemies, upon the men and women who have hated me, slandered me, persecuted me, and used me spitefully. I seek their true welfare at Thy hands, because their unkindness has often done me the greatest good. Behold, O my God, I am but a poor sinner, and deserve much severity in the hands of men. If their severity has been at times exercised when I was prepared for it, I cannot complain, because they have as often withheld their punishment when my conduct fully called for punishment. Cause Thy grace to visit mine adversaries, those who hold different ideas and opinions from myself, those whose faith is different from my own, those who condemn my ways of action, and entertain a very low estimate of my worth and work. Merciful Lord,

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teach me tolerance, large-heartedness, and the love of all men.

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*September 3, 1876.*

THE OUTCAST.

**ON** the outcast sinner, O my gracious Saviour, cast Thine pitying eye. Cast Thine forgiving glance upon him who has made himself vile and abhorred of men. Let Thine face shine upon him in the midst of his degradation ; soften towards him the hearts of those whom he has injured ; let him not altogether die in misery. My God, my God, are we not all of us sinners, has not every one of us outraged the majesty of Thy law in Thy presence for which we are punishable? Why then should I hate the brother sinner because in the world's estimation his transgressions have been greater than mine? Hold the degraded and the outcast within the safe shelter of Thy motherly bosom, give them hope, and give them peace, give them purity, and deliver them from further trials.

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THY DEALINGS.

**WHY** dealings with me, O Lord, have been as just as merciful. To think of what Thou hast done for me in the past, softens the hardest heart, and overpowers the strongest scepticism. Thou knowest my natural, my innate worthlessness, and the vices.

and follies of which I have been repeatedly guilty, are patent before Thine eye. Yet in spite of all this Thou hast lifted me up and through a long series of years hast led me forward from happiness to happiness, from virtue to virtue. Let me, O my ever good Master, make the confession of Thy goodness and my ingratitude. Let me read back the history of Thy dealings, and the book of Thy dispensation. and humbled, and enlightened, believe and declare there is no one like unto my God.

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## THE SORROWING.

**N**OW lonely and disconsolate is the world to those who are truly sorrowful. Nobody understands the heart's aches, and those who know of it, pass it by. Thou alone, O my God, feelest for those who suffer silently. Cause the sorrows which Thou dost send to cleanse and chastize my soul, spare me not until Thou hast made me, what I should be. O Lord, humble down the head that proudly sets itself up, and make Thy gracious wounds to penetrate the most unhealthy parts of the soul. Thou Supreme Healer no man dies whom Thou hast undertaken to cure. And if the world shall prove to be an indifferent spectator of my pain, teach me only to be more firm, and more faithful.

## UNITED SERVICE.

WE wish to serve Thee, O God, with united hearts, as a family having one head, as a regiment under one commander. It is good to work together in Thy service, and it is great pleasure too. There cannot be greater joy or success than when Thy servants unitedly carry out Thy heavenly purpose on earth. Lord give us love, draw us together more firmly in Thy service

## SUSTAINED COMMUNION.

HIND God, have mercy upon us whose thoughts wander about during prayer. How often we have endeavoured to collect our thoughts and yet as often do they run astray. The sweets and benefits of concentrated and sustained communion we have not yet succeeded in realizing. Help us Lord so to control our minds that they may not be disturbed by a single foreign thought during prayer and meditation.

September 10, 1876

## PROVIDENCE.

GOD, I magnify and praise Thy unbounded love it is true, but I feel that I must now and then minify Thy mercy and try to realize only that much of it which has been actually experienced by me in my life. That Thou art infinitely good I be-



lieve in theory only, but I cannot conceive its vastness. Teach me to feel Thy love as it is vouchsafed unto me in small measure from day to day and grant that I may hold and enjoy it as a sweet reality.

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## OLD TRUTHS.

**I**N my attempts to acquire new truths, I am apt to forget old lessons. Grant O my Saviour, that my interest in the old testament of Thy dealings with me may continue unabated and ever fresh. Grant that I may now and then call to mind all those truths and joys which Thou didst confer upon me in days gone by, and learn to love and worship Thee as my Friend and Guide for ever.

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*September 17, 1876.*

## POVERTY.

**P**OVERTY, like other good things poverty too ebbs away from the heart after a time unless it is duly and prayerfully watched. As the world guards riches, may I, Merciful Father, be enabled through Thy mercy to guard my highest treasure on earth, my poverty and lowliness of spirit. Grant that I may be as diligent and prayerful in acquiring as in keeping that treasure.

## PURE EYE.

REDEMPTION is in the eye, O my God. Therefore I beseech Thee to purify my eyes, and give me the power of seeing things in their true light. Teach my eyes to see the hollowness and unreality of the riches and pleasures of the world, and turn with joy to Thee as the only Reality I ought to love. May I by looking constantly at Thy holy face sanctify my eyesight altogether and learn to cast pure glances upon objects and persons. Dwell in my eye, my Father.

*September 24, 1876.*

## THE MYSTERY OF THE GOD-HEAD.

WORD, what shall I say of Thee? Thou art unknowable and yet knowable. Thou art without shape and figure, yet most beautiful. Thou art immutable, yet Thou appearest in various aspects to Thy children. Absolute and the only Lord of the universe, yet every individual subject of Thy kingdom is a free being. Thou workest without noise. How busy art Thou yet how calm and peaceful, how strict and immovable yet how tender and reconcilable; unapproachable yet accessible to any one that seeks Thee. Almighty yet Thou art subject to the necessity of Thy God-head. Omnipresent but ever absent, ever near and ever distant. The Universe cannot contain Thee, yet Thou art present fully in every object. Thou art ever anxious for every individual, yet Thou appearest the most unconcerned

spectator of the world. Infinite is Thy abhorrence of sin, yet Thou dwellest in the soul of a sinner. Extorting monarch yet most liberal. Extremely worldly, having so large a family and immense possessions, yet Thou art the greatest ascetic. August and great, yet Thou personally attendest to the comforts and welfare of the minutest and mean. Thou art most uncompromising yet accommodating. What shall I say of Thee, Lord! May my feeble voice stop, my little mind be numbed, and my soul lost in the wondrous immensity from where no travellers ever return.

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*October 1, 1876.*

AS A CHILD.

ALTHOUGH grown in years, I am, O God, my Father, I am as a child before Thee. Give me the power to feel as a child. Take away this crookedness from my heart, and this impurity. The hardness that is within me is not worthy of Thy child, and this self-relying worldly prudence which does not look up, and does not depend upon Thee. I have been in the holy company of children and felt their innocence and their simplicity. O Lord, it brings sorrow and shame into my heart to see that I am not equal to one of them in love and artless goodness. Make me as holy, as simple, as loving, and as dependent as a child.

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GROWING IN GOD.

**T**HERE is no increase within my soul, O God, my holiness and my love do not grow. The slow and imperceptible advance that there is in all human nature, does not satisfy me amid the great trials of my life. Enable me to feel that Thou art in me always and that I am pure and tender in Thee. Without constant increase of love and heavenly purity, life loses all its warmth and fragrance. Cleanse and soften everything that is within and let me grow in the inward gifts.

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*October 8, 1876.*

COMMUNION OF SAINTS.

**E**XPLAIN to me, O my God, the doctrine of the communion of saints. The best and truest men have gone to thee from this world of sin and sorrow to dwell with thee in joy and blessedness for ever. Their company I seek, O Lord, next to Thy holy company. Though they are absent Thou canst make me dwell with them in spirit now and then and profit by their sanctifying and gladdening presence. Grant me this privilege for Thy mercy's sake.

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SECRET MESSAGES.

**I**F there are deep and secret messages which Thou wouldst communicate to me for my soul's benefit, draw me, O Loving Guide, into some hidden

place and there reveal the glad tidings. Tell me where Thou wilt speak to me, on the top of the hill or the banks of the river or in a rural retreat and I will be there at the appointed time and wait for Thy heavenly voice. O God, I wish to be instructed by Thee in the deeper counsels of heaven.

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## SPIRITUAL UNION.

**S**HALL we meet in heaven, O Lord? Thou sayst we shall, if we are united in spirit here on earth. It grieves us to find there is no such loving union among us, and that, therefore, there is little prospect of our forming one loving family in heaven. Give us, Kind God, such love and purity as shall knit us together for time and eternity in Thy holy house.

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## HUMILIATION.

**W**HY shall I feel dejected and humiliated if men revile and abuse me? Rather should I feel thankful unto Thee, O Lord, that men are teaching me to be humble and lowly by their kind, though apparently unkind treatment. Teach me, my God, to feel my unworthiness.

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*October 15, 1876.*

## WORLDLY WANTS.

**T**HE distress of poverty, O God, threatens to press upon my mind very much sometimes. I am often inclined to feel humiliated and ashamed because of my want of means. Sweeten my heart, my good Father, when the wants of the world tend to depress me; for my livelihood and comfort teach to depend upon Thee entirely; and when the sufferings of those whom I love are about to make my soul sorrowful, give me the consolation of feeling that Thou art my Father, my portion, my wealth for ever. Thou who hast the support of all creatures in Thy hands, support me in the midst of my loneliness and poverty

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THY NEVER CHANGING LOVE.

**T**HOU art always the same, O my merciful Lord, it is only I who am different at different times. Glorious and beautiful in Thy protecting love when I rise from my act of loving prayer, Thou art loving and protecting as ever when I have ceased to love Thee, when my heart is hard and unfeeling as a stone. Thy relations with me never change, it is only my relations with Thee that change so often. And in the unsteadiness of my heart I feel as if Thou art changed to me. Help me, my Father, so that even when my heart is as a stone, I may still trust in Thy never-changing love and goodness. What love and trust Thou dost inspire in me, make it

constant, so that in all states I may fondly and firmly rely and live in Thee.

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## TREATING OTHERS

**S**USPICION and hard usage seem to make the world very dark. Deliver my heart, O God, from the evil suspecting and ill-using others although I may not agree with them. Teach me to treat all men with sweetness, respect, and delicacy, and whatever be the return I get, let me bear it meekly and with dignity, as Thy servant.

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*October 22, 1876.*

## GUIDE ME.

**W**HOM have I in the world, O my God, but Thee? There are many I would call dear and near, and for whom I would willingly toil and suffer. But in the real darkness and distress of life, at the moment of real trial and separation, who stands with me but Thou?

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## MY OWN IN THE SPIRIT.

**M**Y God, I am alone, and have only Thy righteous mercy on my side. Show me the right way to behave towards my fellowmen, show me the

way by which I may cease to be a trouble unto others. If it please Thee manifest unto me in spirit the brothers and the sisters, the fathers and the mothers, the friends and the helpers whom I may call my own in calling Thee my own.

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RESIGNATION.

ALTHOUGH I be in constant want teach me yet, O my God, to take away my heart from the thought of worldly riches. Let holy poverty sweeten my soul to trust in Thee more fully and resign my all in Thy hands.

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A PURE CONSCIENCE.

WHY should I fear man's condemnation, O Holy God, when Thou dost acquit me in the court of conscience. And why should I feel elated by other's praise when Thine awful voice convicts me of guilt. I pray unto Thee for the light and rest of a pure conscience. I cannot claim that others will give me rest, I cannot claim the right of human approbation, for even if I deserved it all, it would harden me, and lead me away from Thee. My Father, bless me, that delivered from my many sins, I may stand in humble innocence before Thy face. Fear and sorrow, care and humiliation cease when I stand justified within the embrace of Thy sanctifying love.



## THY COMPASSION.

**C**AUSE Thy manifold blessings, O Lord, to descend upon the heads of those who have fallen into disease or destitution by faithfully working as Thy servants. Suffer Thy unspeakable peace to enter into those hearts that are aching with anxiety for others' good. Upon those who labour far from home and friends in Thy vineyard, cause all blessing and success to descend. Let Thy suffering servants feel soothed by Thee at all times.

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*October 29, 1876.*

## LOVE.

**I** HUMBLY confess, O my God, that I have made a great mistake in my life. I have always believed that I should, and that I could serve Thee and the world conjointly. Alas! I now feel I have deceived myself. He who serves Thee must renounce worldliness altogether, and love thee exclusively. Help me then, dear Saviour, to make Thee the only object of my affection, the ever-shining and beloved necklace of my heart,

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## A MESSENGER FROM HEAVEN.

**A** PRETTY little bird, flew away from yonder tree across the path of my vision. I addressed it as Thy messenger, O loving God, and asked it

it had any message from heaven for me. It spoke not, yet was I comforted. I devoutly trust, O Lord, thine inspiring dove will some day bring me glad tidings from above.

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VOICE OF NATURE.

WHEN the world was young they say, birds and beasts spoke, and all material objects too. They speak still, O God, if only my soul is young enough as a child to understand them. They speak indeed with charming eloquence to the believing heart. Does not the moon speak? Do not the roses speak? Yes, sayst Thou, O God. Grant that I may always joyfully converse with nature.

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*November 5, 1876*

COMMUNION

BOGA philosophy taught me, O God, that on the shores of the ocean of eternity there is a house where the weary traveller finds peace and forgets sorrow. I thank Thee, Thy merciful guidance has at last enabled me to find that house in my inmost soul. It is so quiet; its solemn stillness makes communion with Thee quite natural, easy and sweet, while its extremely favourable situation, being contiguous to eternity, draws the heart away from this world, and prepares it for the next. Help me,

Unseen Spirit, to dwell with Thee there, for Thou art a Secret God, and lovest solitude.

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#### TRUE FRIEND.

**I**S it true that even spiritual friendship is dissolved after a time, and that the best of friends in Thy house part? Lord, is this possible? How can I cease to love and esteem him whom I have once accepted for better and worse as my friend and companion for eternity? My Father, I cannot. Those whom Thou hast united nothing can separate. In earlier days I met in the path of life one whom I loved warmly and passionately. He was next to my heart always. Now he is far away. Yet is he near, my God. The mysteries of true love who can comprehend? Teach me, Everlasting God, to be faithful and affectionate in my heart, to all those whom Thou hast brought to me and linked to my soul as friends and co-workers in Thy kingdom.

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#### GEOGRAPHY OF THE SOUL.

**I** AM sadly deficient, O my God, in the knowledge of the geography of the soul, and I beseech Thee to enlighten me. Thy wise and devoted children are enabled with the light of such knowledge to travel through the various countries within, seeing and enjoying all interesting places and gathering treasures here and there. Teach me, Lord, where are

those hills of faith, valleys of communion, gardens of love, oceans of peace of which seers and prophets have spoken so eloquently. Tell me also, kind Teacher, where, hid in deep places, lie those inexhaustible mines of spiritual wealth which have made so many of Thy devotees truly rich. O God, teach me the geography of the inner regions, and vouchsafe unto me a complete knowledge of the heights and depths of the soul.

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SPIRITUAL DEVOTION.

**G**OD of India, my educated countrymen are aspiring to high places in the service of the State, and their agitation in this matter shows how very earnest and eager they are. But how few, alas! among them covet high places in the kingdom of Heaven! Lord, teach them to seek spiritual elevation, and grant that they may hunger and thirst for such honours as perish not. Let us all feel how poor we are in spirit, and, discontent with our present low position and resources, let us seek compensation and better prospects in heaven.

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*November 12, 1876.*

RADICAL CURE.

**P**HYSICIAN, heal the maladies of my soul. I have tried the doctors and all the patent medicines of the world, but have found no benefit in them.

Thou alone canst heal me, and Thy medicines alone can bring me relief. The evils in my outward life Thou hast already remedied in a great measure. But as in my blood and deep in my bones the seeds of corruption are lodged, administer the remedies of heaven there, O God, and make me altogether clean and healthy. I have often heard Thee say, Thou Healer of the soul, that I must go out of this world for a few weeks for a change if I desire a complete renewal of health. Be it so, Lord. Grant that I may breathe the purer air of heaven for some time in the regions of the saints above, and then return with renovated health.

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HEAVENLY CAPTAIN.

IT is no longer a river : the sea, the open sea I behold all around, O God. The onward course of my life has brought my frail bark here, and I now feel more than I ever did before, the necessity of entire dependence upon Thee. For who can navigate the sea ? Its length and breadth and depth are appalling to me. The tremendous storm, the roaring waves I dare not face. And then I know not which is the east and which is the west. All is dark, dismal, and fearful. O Captain, in Thy hand must I leave the helm entirely amid all these dangers ; and that heavy load, I carry with me, my own understanding, which may cause me to sink at any moment, I will throw overboard. Guide me, O guide me, Heavenly Captain, into the heaven of joy and blessedness.

## THE DISTANT LAND.

WHAT is that land I see at a distance, half hid  
in mists, yet bright enough to attract my  
heart? Is that the land of joy and Salvation which  
Thou hast, O my God, promised to weary pilgrims?  
Then glory, glory, glory to Thy hallowed name. Lord,  
hasten my movements and make me run, that I may  
soon finish my journey. Thou whisperest, O God,  
the home is yet very far, and it will take fifty thou-  
sand years yet to reach it. Only fifty thousand,  
dear Lord! That is nothing if I am sure of reaching  
that sweet home.

## THE SOVEREIGN OF INDIA.

ON the first day of the New Year our Queen, O  
God, will be proclaimed Empress of Hindus-  
than, and that day will be observed as a day of  
general rejoicing. When will that day come, Father,  
when Thou, King of kings and Lord of lords, shalt  
be declared the Sovereign of India, and the kingdom  
of heaven established in this land? That will indeed  
be a blessed day for all of us, when the tyranny of  
passions will cease, and the reign of ignorance,  
superstition, and sin will come to an end. Lord,  
hasten that day.

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*November 19, 1876.*

## INWARD PURIFICATION.

**G**OD! I thank Thee for the sweetness of Thy presence which Thou hast many times revealed even unto this sinner. I thank Thee for the many consolations and deeply soothing glances of Thy loving eyes on my soul in the midst of my great troubles. I thank Thee for the deep joy of the sense of holy poverty, asceticism, and purity which Thou hast privileged me at times to enjoy. I dare not undervalue them. But, my God, what hast Thou done to my state, what shall I profit with these, however excellent they may be, if my inner self remains as unclean as before? Was I not told, my God, that in spite of Thy many indulgences, and my sensible but momentary devotions, Thy holiness will not spare a least speck on my soul in the day of reckoning? Thou knowest how restlessly I ponder over my state day and night. Have, therefore, a pitying glance on me, and see how miserable I am on account of my sins. I implore Thy saving grace now to break asunder like a potter's vessel, my pride, selfishness, lust, envy and all that is amiss in my soul. Make me white as snow and create a new spirit in me. May the old monster entirely die away, and may I be born anew in Thy holiness and peace—a new creature.

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DIVINE COMPULSION.

**V**ERILY perceive, my God, that Thou hast persecuted and attacked me, else why so much violence used towards me? Art Thou deaf to the

idle and wicked pleadings of my perverted soul to enjoy a little more peace and little more rest? Then accept me as I am, and do with me what seemeth good in Thy sight. I did not know, my God, that Thou dost so forcibly lead sinners to Thy path. I thought that Thou keepest Thyself aloof from unwilling sinners, and only savest those that by their own freewill come and ask salvation from Thee. I now see, Lord, the doctrine of free-will, as I understood it, turns out unsound.

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#### OUR MOVEMENT.

**S**UPREME Directing Power, guide aright the good cause which Thou hast placed in our hands. Help and enlighten those to whom important work is entrusted. From vain imaginations, unworthy dispositions, and obstructive selfishness set us free. Lord, let Thy Spirit rule over our church, and all its details, over the purposes and plans of our leaders, over the actions and inclinations of our men and women. Our places of knowledge and instruction fill with the light of Thy sober wisdom; our houses of worship make Thy holy abode; our places of dwelling sanctify with the sweetness of Thy love and service. O Lord, bless and prosper our movement according to Thy will.



*November 26, 1876.*

## RIGHTEOUS HOPE.

**M**ERCIFUL God, Thou hast made all other spiritual gifts hard of attainment, but the great blessing of hope in Thy kingdom is easily available. Holiness, faith, and love are difficult to acquire but Thou feedest the hungry soul with hope always. The high aspirations of the Brahmo's religious life may yet be very remote to realize, the great destiny which Thou hast set forth before us may fail to obtain the sympathy of the world, but fill us with strong hope and lead us on, our Heavenly Captain, to our goal, cheering us with righteous and real hope, and we shall be content to live and die before Thee in peace.

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## COMMUNION WITH SAINTS.

**T**EACH us, O Lord, to understand the doctrine of communion with good men. Teach us to appreciate the inestimable good of being with them, and learn of Thee in and from them. Make us worthy to sit with them, and benefit our souls by their example and conversation.

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## THE LATE CYCLONE.

**S**UPREME Ruler, God of might and mercy, have compassion, we pray Thee, upon the souls of the hundreds of thousands who have perished by the

late cyclone in our country. Unaware, and unprepared they were hurled into sudden death, and we hear of them, their sufferings, and their terrible passing away, like a strange dream that is related? The mystery of Thy dealings with the world is past our comprehension, we wonder, and we are struck with awe, and humble ourselves to the dust before Thee. While we, unworthy as we are of life, are spared by Thee in health and happiness, and everything is cheerful around us, so many of our brethren and sisters are torn away untimely from all that they prized. Our common Father, how can we forbear to ask Thy gracious blessing on them in the other world. And while we pray for them we cannot forget the survivors and sufferers left behind amongst us by the wind and flood. Lord, rouse in our hearts the feelings of compassion, and the sense of duty. Give the rulers of the country to understand their responsibilities at the present moment of sadness and suffering. Incline the landlords and the rich to come forward to help the poor and unsheltered. Out of our energy and substance may we in the name of sacred duty spend for Thy afflicted children, and do what we can to make them happy.

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*December 10, 1876;*

THY FACE.

Thy seeing Thee Thy true devotees have become pure. We have seen Thee, but we have not yet become pure. That vivid perception of Thy Holy face which instantly cleanseth the heart and

induceth holiness do Thou vouchsafe unto me, Kind God. In the sweetness of Thy benign countenance I have found hope and comfort. Now in the light of Thy holy countenance may I find purity and righteousness.

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## MY DEBTS.

**G**OD, at Thy feet I lie prostrate as a debtor, encumbered with liabilities altogether beyond my power to redeem. Thou hast showered on me mercies untold and undeserved, and I feel with all my sins and iniquities that I can never make a return for such unceasing favours. Enchain me then as the hopeless debtor deserves to be enchained for having failed to meet his debts, and hold me a captive in the fetters of Thy love.

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*December 24, 1876.*

## THE EMPRESS OF INDIA.

**D**OUR Thy choicest blessings Almighty God, be upon our sovereign. Fill her heart with Thy Holy Spirit when she assumes the title of Empress of India. Grant that she may feel that the title cometh from Thee, and bringeth with it a heavy trust and stupendous responsibilities. May not Proclamation on New Year's day prove an empty pageant but may Thy daughter and servant Victoria, and may all her Councillors, and her representatives

here all see in that ceremony Thy right hand placing the Empress Crown on her head: May Victoria's reign be in future more and more conformable to Thy law of justice and charity. Gather Thou all the tribes and races of India with their rulers in Thy blessed fold that they may all be subjected to Thy benignant sway for ever.

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TRUE POVERTY.

TRUE poverty I have yet to learn, my God. Sackcloth and ashes are not poverty, cooking one's own meal is not poverty, self-mortification is not poverty. Nor are they who weep incessantly to be accounted poor. Father, in lowliness of spirit is true poverty. May I not be as an arrogant prince in rags: Teach me to be poor in spirit. Teach me contentment, simplicity, meekness, forbearance, humility, and self-abnegation

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*February 18, 1877.*

## SPIRITUAL SANITY.

THOUGHT, Thy devotee desires to be a matter-of-fact man, and to be altogether above the reach of dreams and fancies. I confess, my Father, I am excessively fond of communion and solitary devotion. I wish to sit with Thee, converse with Thee, look at Thee, and be glad in Thy company. But all this must be real, and I will have no mystical reveries of illusions to deceive me in such sacred matters. I hate dreams and I will not revel in vision though it may seem heavenly. O Thou Great Reality help me to see Thee as Thou art, and so hold the light of truth steadily before me that I may be always a matter-of-fact man in the spiritual world.

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FAMINE.

THE FAMINE of appalling magnitude is devastating this fair land and making sad havoc. God Almighty, vouchsafe unto our Viceroy and his counsellors and also the Governors of Bombay and Madras and their counsellors such wisdom and strength as may enable them to work unitedly in this hour of trial, and successfully grapple with this mighty and widespread evil. O Father of India, grant that there may be no weakness of vacillation, neither heartless indifference nor proud obstructiveness in the councils of our rulers. In the face of this great disaster our wisdom is as darkness and our might is as nothing, O Lord. What earthly Government can feed millions

of famishing subjects when the soil refuses to yield grain ? Gracious God, help us with light from above, that we may see and work as best as behoves us in this season of peril.

## SOLITARY COMMUNION

TO-DAY I have found Thee alone, O God, and therefore I rejoice. With brothers and sisters I have often come unto Thee, and offered united homage to Thee, and enjoyed the blessings of congregational worship. But it is a peculiar pleasure and privilege to sit with Thee in solitude, and divulge those secrets, which the heart would not publish, but would reveal only to the Dearest Lord in the inner sanctuary. Read these private messages of my soul, O my God, and answer them in holy and sweet whispers.

## WORK AND WORSHIP.

TO me, a sinner, work is as hard, O Lord, as worship. The difficulty I experience in doing Thy work is scarcely less than what I find in communion and prayer. For true work in order to be acceptable to Thee, my Master, must be done in a righteous and godly spirit. Merely perform a work is easy: even to work all day with untiring energy is easy. But to work unto the glory and in a devout spirit, is most difficult. Grant, O God, that I may work in Thy service always as an indefatigable, humble and trusting servant.

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*February 25, 1877.*

## SERVING THE NEEDY.

**G**IVE unto me the grace, O Lord, to serve the weak and helpless. The strong and the well-to-do can help themselves, and there are others ready to help them, but who will undertake to look to the poor and the weak? O my Father, how can I approach Thee with the supplication to give me succour in the midst of my own miserable helplessness, if I am slow and unwilling to be of service to those who lack strength and means in thy household? First let me help Thy daughters who are so weak and unaided, then those who are really poor among Thy sons, and then those who are rich and strong among them. Make me, as Thou art, always the friend of the weak and the oppressed in Thy house.

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HOLY LOVE.

**M**INGLE holiness and love in equal measure, O Thou beautiful God, and let me drink both to my heart's content. In the corrupt currents of the world, behold Lord, purity and affection do not flow together, and Thou seest men who are loving but not holy, and many a pure-minded one from whose heart love has fled away. I stand at Thy door a humble suppliant of both. What shall I do with the affection which defiles and degrades my soul, and what shall I do with the purity which makes me hard as a stone? From Thy face love and holiness mingle in eternal beauty. Make me a partaker of Thy twofold blessedness of loving and pure perfection.

## A SELECT SPOT.

ONE bit of ground, O my God, I want in Thy wide world in which the atmosphere will breathe nothing but Thy fragrance. In the midst of bad and unhealthy air even the healthy become feeble and die, and where the air is pure and genial the sick and the sorry recover, and live. In Thy mercy find for me within Thy Kingdom some space, however narrow and little, where I may perpetually breathe Thy purity and goodness. I would sit in this select spot to pray to Thee, to work for Thee, to rejoice in Thee, and to spend my life with Thee. Without a select spot, beyond the heat and noise of the world, where can my soul make its abode? My Father, do assign to me such a ground of rest and purity in this life.

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## THE PRIVILEGE OF COMMUNION.

IT is hard for me, O my Saviour, when Thou art unattainable, and it is equally hard for me when Thou art attainable. When it is difficult to behold and approach Thee, I am in the danger of death by my hard-heartedness, sinfulness and the trials of life. And when I can approach Thee and behold the beauty of Thy face without much trouble, how I undervalue and dishonour the grace which brings Thee always near my heart, sinner as I am. I have offended Thee, insulted and grieved Thy spirit away by my heedlessness and disrespect, and for this sin if Thou dost withdraw Thy presence from me, surely I will die. Do therefore enable me to honour, value



and adore the privilege by which I can so easily gain access to Thee every day.

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MY OWN IN THE SPIRIT.

**I**N exile in my own land, and a foreigner at home, I am full of weariness, and void of friendship. Show me my home, O Lord, and cause me to know my own dear ones with whom I may sit in love and confidence, they knowing me and I knowing them, as of Thy old familiar household. Father, let me not live and die a stranger when I am so close to my own hearth; and save me from the blindness of not recognizing those who are my true and tried friends ever ready to help me and love me. Put out these faithless eyes which see enmity where they should see companions and dear ones, which see exile where they should see my own land, and give unto me the purer sight that shall find me always in the bosom of Thy household and in the midst of my home.

---

THY BEAUTY.

**RENEW** the colour of Thy beauty always before mine eyes, O my Father, and let it never fade in my heart. Thou art eternally, equally handsome always, but the dust of worldliness, sinfulness, so blinds me at times, that I cannot behold Thee, and cannot enjoy the beauty of Thy face. With what consolation can I live in this world, and bear the

burden of sorrow, if Thy presence loses its charm in my soul? I earnestly and very humbly pray to Thee therefore always be new and beautiful to me, and to me in the glory of the colour of Thy love and joy when I approach Thy throne in prayer.

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*March 4, 1877*

THY SERVICE.

GIVE unto me the perfect calmness of absorption in Thee, O my God, and draw me away far, far from every manner of distraction that the world can offer. Let my spirit be like a metal fixed and quiet in the crucible of Thy communion. Cause Thy burning presence first to soften it, then to purge it, then to melt it, and turn it into Thy own hue and substance, that I may mingle like fire into fire, and find perfect rest in Thee. My Father, my Master, I was born to serve, deprive me not and let me not neglect Thy service. Behold, O my God, how by indifferent and half-hearted service I have failed to please my brethren, and made myself miserable. Vouchsafe unto me the inward consolation of having been a faithful servant to Thy sons and daughters, and even if they discourage me, and dislike me, make me able to stand in Thy presence as an obedient and humble dependent whose sole aim in life is to make others comfortable.

## GOD-ABSORPTION.

Filled and filled with the loving words of Thy  
 worship I pray unto Thee, O Thou Infinite  
 Spirit of Reality, guide me for a time into Thy inner-  
 most communion, yes for a time, even if it be for a  
 day. Suffer me to sit beyond every obstruction,  
 every fear, every sin, and every temptation which the  
 world can offer, sit absorbed within Thee. and Thou  
 in me, and behold Thee without intermission and  
 pause, and hear the profoundest secrets, and delight-  
 ful things which Thou hast to reveal. When I am  
 wandering in the market place, and working in the  
 office be Thou at my side, mine eyes still concen-  
 trated within Thee and my heart absorbed in Thy  
 beauty.

## WITH GOD AND HIS DEVOTEES.

DESCEND into my heart, O Supreme Teacher,  
 with Thy favourite disciples, come to visit me,  
 in company with the saints and the good men of all  
 places and times who have loved Thee, served Thee,  
 lived and died for Thee. Lord their spirits are united  
 with Thine, and in seeking union with Thee, how  
 can I cease to court union with them? It is delight-  
 ful to sit with those who have won Thy favour, and  
 to learn from those whom Thou hast taught. Lord  
 come to me therefore, come to me in company with  
 Thy faithful servants and followers to enlighten me  
 and raise me up. I know not yet who they are, but  
 teach me to honour the good and pure of every age  
 and people and make me as one of them.

## BEING GOOD.

**I**F Thou hadst behaved with me, my God, as I behaved with Thee, I would have ceased to live by this time. Thou didst remember me when I forsook Thee, Thou didst deal bountifully with me when I treated Thee with dishonour. How can I be as good to Thee, as Thou hast been to me? Teach me in gratitude to Thee, to be good, and forgiving to my fellow-men, and return some measure of the bounty to them, which Thou hast poured upon my heart.

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*March 11, 1877.*

## LOYAL TO VOWS.

**I**T is hard, O Lord, to take the vows of religious life before Thee. If we are unable to keep them faithfully, by breaking them we make ourselves more culpable than if we had never taken them. Yet if we take not any vow what will bind down our hearts to faithfulness and purity? Behold how strong our carnal nature is, and how easily we are carried away from Thee and Thy commandments. Fasten our spirits with iron chains that we may strictly keep to our appointed religious exercises, and never swerve to the right, or to the left. Let our religious vows be our meat and drink, our costume, and our rest. Make us loyal and unflinching in the discharge of our sacred vows, and give us to obey Thy will everlastingly.

## MY DUAL SELF.

I AM the worst *Chandala*, and unfit for the society of holy men and women. The soul that is within us Thou didst create with Thy substance, O God, but it is degraded and has lost the purity of its origin. Every one who comes in contact with me, becomes coarse and defiled by my touch, and I am humiliated deeply within myself. How I feel ashamed to lift up my head amongst Thy children. Yet, O my Father, there is in me an instinct which earnestly and strongly longs for Thy holiness, and the light of Thy countenance. Thee I cannot defile, low caste as I am, Thy nature I cannot degrade if I am allowed to associate with Thee. Take me to Thy company therefore, and elevate me from the low state into which I have fallen.

## LIFE AND REALITY.

BE unto me exceedingly real, O God, Thy poor devotee prayeth with uplifted hands. Be unto me real as the vast expanse of heaven, real as the mustard seed that is very minute; real as the hard Great Rock. Real as the sweet flowing sea of Thy liquid tenderness. Be true to me as the mother that never faileth the child of her womb, and the Father that never deserteth his own offspring. My Father, first teach me to be a truthful man, then a spiritual man, then a devotee, then a *yogi*. Alas! in this world of unreality, how, I have been deprived of the primitive virtue of truth. Behold, O Thou Spirit of Truth, how false my words are, and my

feelings, and my actions, and even to a great extent my prayers. Like unto a deadly thief falsehood has robbed my home, and my heart of its most precious treasures. I pray unto Thee like one that is cast down ; burn in me, and about me everything that is false. In my life, prayers and religious exercises consume into ashes everything that is unreal, if but a little of what I now possess be true, O preserve me with that. Fill me with truths vast, various, and manifold, of many colours, and characters.

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OLD AGE.

**A**GE grows upon me day after day. O my God, and the strength and energy of my life, every one says, will soon ebb away. My Father as with age my body becomes feeble, my spirit may find its freshness and faith fade away, and my soul becomes as old as my body. In the feebleness of waning life, and amidst the trials of old age, preserve Thou the freshness and energy of my soul. Make me a steadfast old devotee when the infirmities of the flesh have surrounded me, and aged and weak in body make me always tender and youthful in heart. Gaining in years in worldly life, white and mature, make me still younger and fresher for heaven, and bless me with the life that is everlasting in Thee.

---

THY BEAUTY.

**C**AUSE the earnest gaze of mine eye to be fixed upon Thee. O Lord, and unfold Thy beauty before me petal after petal like a glorious flower.

Let Thine beauty be of one kind to me in the morning, of another kind in the afternoon, and different again in the evening. Who can behold the unfolding of Thy beauty but he whose vision is perfectly calm and still. I am tossed about amidst the unsteady currents of the world, turning hither and thither and never facing Thee with the serenity of a composed spiritual gaze. Draw me by Thy beauty so that my eye be fixed, and my heart listless by the wonderful beauty of Thy face. Cause the floods of Thy secret nature to rush out before my charmed sight, and Thy hidden truths to enrapture my inmost being.

March 18, 1877

#### DUTIES AND DEVOTIONS.

LIKE one of a vast crowd I stand before Thy door, O Lord, Thou canst but hear me in my turn as Thou hearest others that wait for Thee. There are many who have received Thy grace, and obeyed and worked for Thee with all their might. This I have not done. Between my devotions and daily duties I have never yet been able to establish the right relation. Thou knowest Father, how much of my work remains yet unbegun and unfinished. Between one thing and another the short day passes away and neglectfully and unthinkingly I fling it on the other side of the sea of eternity. Yet my appointed work here I must do before I can be admitted to Thy kingdom. Give me the good sense and strength therefore, to begin and finish my work.

early, give me to obey Thee and work for Thee in the short day of life, that when the night comes, and dawns in a better land, I may be admitted into Thy kingdom, and among the company of the blessed.

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FOUND WANTING.

WHEN enjoying the bounties of Thy love, my saviour, I thought not that Thou wert weighing my poor soul in the balance of secretly appointed trials. O Thou Holy and Upright One, Thou hast tried me in the midst of Thy dispensation, and hast found me sadly wanting. In the process of Thy searching and impartial examination, the secret grave faults of my character have come out one by one. I should gladly have passed as a good man, but Thou hast proved me to be a very bad one before Thyself, and other men, and I now sit down humbled. In the home of Thy *Asram* Thou didst ask me to be unselfish and meek; I have proved selfish and vain; I have proved quarrelsome, jealous, and very unloving. Now, O Holy God, deliver me from my well-proved vileness, and make me sit purified with Thy sons and daughters in the home of Thy blessed dispensation.

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
THIS WORLD AND THE OTHER.

DREAMING of the Kingdom of Heaven in the upper spheres of spiritual life, I am caught in the midst of my little vices in the lower sphere of



the world. O Thou all-seeing God, Thou knowest that there are not many obstructions in the way of my prayer, but there are numberless difficulties for me in the world below. And if I am obliged for my safety to leave the world, it is not because I am unworldly, and resigned to Thy will, but because I am weak and wicked, and can ill bear the difficulties which I have created around me. My falsehoods and uncharitable acts have taken away the confidence of my brethren and sisters from me, and how can I complain if I am now the object of their distrust? Enable me, O Merciful Father to do my little duties in the world faithfully, to be true, just, pure, and loving to all, and then raise me to discharge the noble functions of the elevated spheres of spirituality.

#### A FRUITFUL LIFE.

**F**RUCTIFY my heart, O Thou Spirit of Truth.  Make me fruitful with individual purity and goodness, and the plenteous harvests of Thy grace. Let me grow in heart, conscience and grace under the fostering dew of Thy love. But my Father, make me fruitful also in good works to Thy children. Entrust me with the blessed work of giving unto others the bread of life which Thou hast mercifully bestowed upon me. Like unto a tree that scatters its fruit and shade plentifully to all, make me useful in the world; like unto a stream that floweth and carrieth fertility in its water, make my life the storehouse of Thy bounteousness.

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March 25, 1877.

FROM GOOD TO BETTER.

**E**VERYTHING in Thy world changes, O Thou beneficent Creator, from good to better, and from bad to good, but I change not. I still retain my old condition of sin and unworthiness, though the face of nature is becoming continually happier and more beautiful, change me also in response to the changes around me, and make me always from good to better. Behold, on the other hand, everything remains fixed and inviolable. The sun, moon, and the stars, the seas and mountains; only the element of good in one varies continually, and I cannot retain the same measure of love and righteousness always. My Father, enable me to keep my good feelings unchanged within my heart, and let my righteousness and love remain constant.

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WHOLE-HEARTEDNESS.

**W**HILE I commune with Thee, O God, let me enjoy the full measure of communion, and be absorbed in it entirely. And when I come to work and toil in Thy world, let me bear the full measure of hard labour and prove serviceable to Thee. But while I pray let not my mind be dissipated with the various thoughts of work and toil. Let me be entirely absorbed in Thy communion.

## A DULL UNDERSTANDING.

**I** COMPREHEND not Thy language, O Lord, and I sit like one devoid of intelligence at Thy feet while Thou speakest on Thy truths. My difficulties are, therefore, not resolved, and I get no clue to Thy secrets. Give me the power to understand Thy speech which solves so many problems of Thy dispensation ; give me The light whereby I may see the secrets of Thy purpose.

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*April 1, 1877.*

## ONE WITH GOD.

**E**TERNAL Blessedness ! Endless Perfection ! How can my soul ever become like unto Thee ? What proportion can there be between Thy nature and mine ? It is not in me, Father, to aspire after the glory and power of righteousness that can belong to Thee alone ; yea it is not even in me to aspire after the greatness and holiness of some among Thy sons and servants. Vouchsafe to keep the image of Thy spirit within my soul, let me but feel that my nature is of same kind as Thine, uncarnal, unworldly, and always spiritually inclined in its depth, and Father, I will be content. The perfection of my nature is always in feeling that I am Thy son, reconciled to Thee in spirit and in will.

## PIETY AND MORALITY.

WHERE is morality and there is piety both, in Thy dispensation, O God. We are fond of the piety which is sweet to us, and so full of prayer and peace. But the hard morality whose path is strewn with sharp stones we do not like to tread, because there is no enjoyment in it. The former brings us before Thee in adoration and meditation, the latter takes us to our fellow-men whom we do not, and cannot love, we cannot be grateful to them. Though we have profited much from them we feel we owe them nothing. Give us the heart to be sincerely bound in gratitude to our brethren who have done so much for us.

## VIRTUE AND MORALITY.

VEILED as supreme virtue Thou reignest in the world. What place is there, and what race of men that do not bear the impress of Thy virtue? Let me recognize Thee, and worship Thee as the sole Virtue and only Morality. Thou hast no name, Thy name is *Dharma*, Thou hast no body, Thy only body is the pure, the true, the loveable in all things. Thus veiled, everywhere, and amidst all Thou art, O Thou Spirit of Virtue and Morality, descend and dwell in this coarse body of flesh and blood. In my habits, words, in my whole manhood manifest Thy virtue. In the morning, noon-day, and even-time, cause me to practise the spirit of Thy virtue.

## UNITED IN THEE.

**T**HE arrangements in Thy household, O Lord, are sweet and perfect. But in our house behold how confusion and discord reign supreme! Thy mansion is the home of peaceful, loving and helpful brothers and sisters. Our broken, resting-place is the scene of quarrel and endless separation. We want to be parted asunder in the name of religion, we who met together under a common shelter because sin and temptation pressed us from the-outside. Shall we cease to pray because the prayer is old that we may be united once more as brothers and sisters! If all will not come, let the one or two that do come, be united by Thee under Thy dispensation.

## TEARS AND LAUGHTER.

**M**OST Solemn God! It is true that Thou didst create both tears and laughter for man. And in Thy good time there are seasons of weeping and merriment. But the merriment in which we indulge is diseased and unnatural. It is unbecoming and vile. And the weeping, too, in which we indulge is equally improper and unseasonable. Cause us to be solemn in the midst of our monstrous joy; and bid us stop our profane weeping. Give us to be joyful in Thee, and in having obeyed Thy commandments. And let us also shed tears in Thy communion. Make us consecrate both our laughter and our tears to Thee.

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*April 8, 1877.*

## RECONCILED IN GOD.

**D**RAW near unto me, O my Father, and teach me to feel that Thou art in my heart. Time was when Thou didst speak very close to me, and I heard Thee, and did meekly follow Thy voice. But now seeing that we are disobedient Thou art silent, and walking according to our own conceits our hearts are void and without light. In other times those men who heard Thee really were at least faithful, if others were not, and they carried out Thy dispensation until death. But we even in our own lifetime have forsaken Thee, and sent Thee to a distance. Thou art to us as if Thou wert dead, and when the Father is dead would not the children quarrel? Thus we quarrel, defeat Thy purposes, and make ourselves miserable. Return to us once more, speak to us as Thou didst before, and reconcile and re-establish us in Thy house

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THY PRESENCE.

**L**ET me return to the first lesson of religion, and let me cry out "Yea God Thou art." O, if I could once say "Thou art" with my whole soul and heart, what peace, what rest, what purity and love must I not feel. How often have I forgotten this truth, O my God, and lived like an atheist. Cause me to say my God "Thou art" in all times and circumstances.

## WORLDLINESS.

EVERY day, my Father, the world appears to me to be more and more formidable. In former days it came as a robber in the open daylight, but now it comes as a secret thief to rob me of all the treasures of my heart. It comes like a friend, and treacherously takes away my virtue. I get no time to call Thee, to ask Thy help. I know not that the enemy is in the house. But when I awake in the morning I discover what I most prized is gone. Deliver me from the secret ravages of this treacherous world. Always warn me, and always watch me, so that I may not be taken unawares, and deprived of what is most valuable in my character.


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*April 15, 1877.*


## THY AID.

I WOULD adore Thee, I could commune with Thee, but when doing my work in the world I would dispense with Thy aid. My affairs I would manage by the help of my own intellect, and would not count Thy spirit of much service. Therefore hast Thou retired from my practical life, and left me to do not Thy will, but my own. Yet how shall I pray, unto Thee, for what shall I pray, if I have no relation with Thee in the world? Teach me to submit to Thy decree in the midst of my daily duties, that I may be enabled to pray with success and spirit.


## THE CROWN OF THORNS.


 I HAVE forgotten all about the crown of thorns,  
 O Lord, and want to be religious through the  
 path of pleasure. I would not give up my comforts,  
 my wishes or my vanities, and I would not willingly  
 submit to any pain. Whoever attained to Thy  
 blessedness, without bending his head amidst suffering  
 and dishonour before Thy feet?

## OBEDIENCE


 I HAVE said I would obey Thee, because Thou art  
 formless and not made of matter. Thou speak-  
 est not and dost not lay Thy finger upon my gross  
 and carnal habits. My vow of obedience is mere  
 hypocrisy, when I would not obey those men through  
 whom Thou dost speak. Though Thou, O my God,  
 art formless, let Thy discipline, to which I have  
 vowed obedience have a distinct and severe form.  
 Enable me to recognize Thy dispensations in their  
 material as well as spiritual aspects, and offer actual  
 obedience to Thy children through whom Thou dost  
 express Thy will.

## A NEW HEART.


 WOULDST Thou not give me a new heart with the  
 new year, O my Father? The old year has  
 gone by, but the darkness of my character has not  
 gone. My life draws near eternity, but, alas! I



would not draw near Thee. Teach me with the coming year to retire often into the darkness of solitude and self-communion, to pray unto Thee, and cast myself upon Thy bosom. Make the darkness of night my friend who will call me before Thy footstool, and teach me always to receive and obey Thy spirit.

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*April 22, 1877.*

WAITING ON GOD.

THOU art exceedingly good, O Lord, full of the sweetest, tenderest and holiest qualities. Those who resort to Thy house, get an abundance of everything that is sweet and holy. Teach us to be Thy dependents and applicants at Thy doors. Teach us how to pray to Thee in the genuine poverty and trustfulness of spirit.

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LIVING IN GOD.

NOW exceedingly small and commonplace is my allegiance to Thee, O God! The poor homage of my devotion, though so refreshing to me, is little, very little in Thy sight. The temporary excitement of aspirations, the awakening of love and trust during the brief moments of daily worship is not what Thou desirest to see in Thy devoted servants. When shall I learn to yield every atom of my being to Thee, when will my aspirations cover

every moment of my earthly existence? One brief moment of Thy company used to be enough for me in times gone by, but now O Father, I long to build my home in Thee, and abide in it for ever.

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## WAR.

**W**E see before us, O Mighty God, the prospects of a dreadful and devastating war in the far West. The heart shudders at the thought of the atrocious cruelties which are about to be perpetrated and the misery and the wretchedness likely to be caused. O Merciful God, Thy children shall with hideous war cries assail and rend each other, and with savage fury spill the blood of brothers. Grant that the hostile nations may yet see the folly and wickedness of war, and desist from it. Cause the light of better counsel, O Lord, to enter the deliberations of all European monarchs and rulers, so that they may by mutual forbearance and cordial co-operation avert the impending catastrophe.

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## PREACHERS.

**T**WO of our missionary brethren after receiving a year's training have gone away to preach Thy saving truth, O God. They need Thy light. Vouchsafe unto them Thine inspiring and gladdening presence wherever they may go, and grant that their words, deeds, may influence those around them. Make

them prayerful and humble, pure in heart, diligent in work and always fond of Thy sweet name.

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*April 29, 1877.*

THY WILL.

**Y**ET how very hard to be what Thou dost wish to make us ! For my own ideas how much would I not suffer and sacrifice. In Thy name only how little have I ever done. Little do I know, O my Father, how different Thine purposes are from my own. I have not inquired, I have not taken the trouble to know what Thou wouldst wish to make of me. I work, it is true, but after whose work am I bent ? I have not waited to make sure whether my work draws me near to thee, or draws me away. I make a show of serving my fellow-men, but I would not wait to think whether I do them good or harm. Enlighten me, O Lord, as to Thy will and pour Thy spirit into my soul !

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THE CHOSEN ONES.

**I**f there be men through whom Thou hast taught me the true lessons of devotion and faith ; if there be men by whose example Thou hast moulded my character and made me what I am, how can I reject their interpretations of Thy purposes in regard to Thy church ? Lord, enable me to watch and find out to whom Thou hast given Thy covenant. My

true guides and leaders teach me to find out and follow.

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ESTABLISHED IN PEACE.

PEACE I ask of Thee, peace with all outward nature, peace with men, peace with myself. I want to be established within Thee in peace. Conflicts between good and evil there must be on all sides, and conflicts with circumstances I cannot avoid, but my Father amidst all this ceaseless war, let me trust in Thee, and find exceeding peace. A heart devoid of passion for every earthly object, a conscience clean and carefully guarded, a mind that meekly takes whatever Thou givest, grant me this that I may find peace.

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THE BATTLE CRY.

THE battle cry has been heard, O God, and hostile nations have already confronted each other, and begun the fierce work of destruction and bloodshed. Who will arrest the evil? Who can? Almighty God, Thou alone canst humble nations to the dust and dissuade them from bloody deeds. We humbly look up to Thee, and pray that hostilities may cease and peace may prevail once more in Europe.

## THE PARCHED HEART.

THE parched heart needs irrigation no less than the barren waste lands. I pray and meditate, study good books, seek good company, but in vain. There is not emotion enough to make life fertile, although of good seeds there is abundance. Therefore, I beseech Thee, Merciful Father, to irrigate my heart and pour into it streams of tender love and sweet affections, and so soften its hard soul that every heavenly seed that falls upon it may fructify and produce luxuriant harvests. In these days of dry religion my heart cries over and anon "water, water."

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May 6, 1877.

## MY REAL NEEDS.

LET me reflect upon the last twenty years of my life. What has preserved me, what has made me good except heart-felt prayers to Thee, O Lord? Let me not forsake prayer, therefore, let me daily come to Thy door with the voice of supplication, and in the spirit of the suppliant. My inmost wants let me lay before Thy feet. My deepest aspirations let me lay before Thy feet. Let me only pray for such things as I am truly in need of.

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WORK AND WORSHIP.

**IF** the utmost zeal for practical activity is not combined with the deepest devotion in my life, how can I keep the spirit of Thy religion in me always? When I commune with Thee, let me feel that I am destined to nothing, but Thy contemplation and company. And when I act in the world by Thy command, let me feel that I have been sent to the world for nothing but Thy active service and the good of my fellow-men. So bless me that the same principle of faithfulness to Thee may manifest itself at different times in devotion and in practical work.

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## PURE IN HEART.

**HE** who is pure, is pure in all relations of life. My God, art Thou not equally holy at all times? But behold how holiness and unholiness alternate in my heart, and how towards some I try to remain pure while to others I am very impure. In all circumstances, and in all relations of life, make my soul like a blazing fire. Lord, the poor suppliant wants that sanctity which is uniform in all places and times, before all men and women. Give unto me many-sided sanctity, many-coloured sanctity, the holiness which possesses a hundred kinds of fragrance. Show me the thousand kinds of sanctity which pervade the world, in the varied walks of existence. Father, let me grow from holiness to holiness, until becoming pure in heart I behold the light and glory of Thy sanctity.

*May 13, 1877.*

## THE UNKNOWN FUTURE.

IT seems, O my God, that I have been in this world very long. I have seen many events, and many men; much increase, decrease, rise and fall, growth, change and decay. And still I sit before Thee, my head resting on my hand, say, say, O Thou all-knowing God, what will be the end of all this? Where are Thy children to be in the dim future? Thou didst bid us live together in the same house more affectionately than brothers and sisters. But we have not been able to agree. Give unto us the good will and the wisdom to see what course we are to follow henceforth. If we feel that from the necessities of our condition we must part, let us at least bear in mind how much we have enjoyed in Thy household. Let us not find fault with the hundred benefits that have flowed to us in a stream, if we sever ourselves from all this happiness now, and proceed alone into the uncertain future to shift for ourselves. Give us the guidance of good sense and faith in the course that now awaits us.

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## LEANING ON GOD.

LEAN on Thee, tottering, lead me along, Kind Guide. I lean on Thee blind-folded, lead me in the way that leads to Thy door. In utter ignorance, in utter wretchedness, in utter perplexity, I lean on Thee with the whole weight of my soul. Cause me to forget everything except this, that I lean on Thee.

Behold I am clad in the ragged meanness of my nature ; there is a sore here, there is a sore there in my body : I bear the load of my past sins, and present suffering on my head ; nobody shows me the way, and I know not the way myself. Father, let me lean on Thee, let me lean on Thee wholly and solely.

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GOD'S ACTIVITY.

THE wheel of Thy activity is moving on. Thou dost work at Thy dispensations ceaselessly and endlessly. Because we have stopped, and idled by the way, Thou hast not stopped. Why do we think Thy work to be dead and gone when it is not dead, but ever-living and ever-active ? Lord, Thou workest not for one, not for two, but for all mankind. Thousands will come and benefit by what Thou doest ; generations will be saved by it. If we come and join Thy dispensation in right earnest, we, too, will be saved. But whether we come or not, O Lord, do Thou carry out Thy purposes for the salvation and regeneration of the world

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GOD-VISION.

THOU Being, pure presence, all-filling existence ; whose only attribute that we know is Thou art, many are Thine colours, many Thine beauties, many Thine manifestations. We cannot hope to see Thine whole nature, and all Thine attri-



lutes. Vouchsafe unto us to see one among the many beauties, each day. According to the state of our minds, according to Thy grace, suffer us to see as much or as little of Thee, day after day, as Thou thinkest is good for us. In thus beholding Thee in varying measures and degrees we may at last behold Thee as the pure and blessed do, in the wholeness and perfection of Thy light.

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*May 20, 1877.*

SAFE IN GOD.

THOU hast said Thou shalt protect me, O Lord, why then shall I fear? Even though the evil in me were tenfold greater, still I am Thy child, the son of Thy handmaiden. Even though I was hurled headlong into shame and sorrow, yet O Lord, Thou wilt by no means cast away Thy servant. I rest in faith in Thy love and promise of salvation.

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DEPENDENCE.

IF Thy difficulties depend upon me, saith the Lord. Where Thou art weak, and Thy oppressor is strong, when Thou art alone, and Thy enemies are many, then look up to me and my right hand shall defend Thee.

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IN GOD ALONE.

**I**N my tribulations why did I not lay my cause  
before Thee, O my God, and rest my head on  
Thy bosom? I went to seek the sympathy and con-  
solation of men, and they disappointed me. Sinful  
as I am, I went to other sinners and they failed to  
give me strength, nay, they wanted to add to my sins.  
Therefore, I pray unto Thee, receive my wounded  
heart into the infinite depth of Thy spirit, and in  
Thee alone let me find the remedy of my sorrow and  
weakness.

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## MYSELF AND GOD.

**W**ORD, is the measure of my degradation greater  
than the measure of Thy power that Thou  
canst not lift me up? And is the depth of my  
sorrow greater than the depth of Thy peace? Ever-  
glorious Thou, ever full of joy and loving kindness,  
who can shut my mouth against Thy praise and mine  
eyes from beholding Thee, and if I can but praise  
Thee, and stand before Thee, and drink from the deep  
streams of Thy beauty I am content to lie low,  
for my humiliation is the passport to exceeding peace.

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## MYSELF AND THE WORLD.

**U**NASHLY and ruthlessly I judged other men, and  
behold, O God of justice, they judge me to-  
day. I was not sorry when I formed and expressed

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hasty and cruel opinions of others, and why should they be sorry when they mete it out with the same measure unto me? I am cast down now by the harsh judgments of my brethren, and I am humiliated, and sorrow-stricken, and complain loudly. And the thought that at other times I treated others unjustly does but add to my sorrow. My God, visit me now in my solitude, and cheer me in the midst of my dejection. Patiently let me bear the opinions of the world, cheerfully if possible, if not, with patience and meekness. From all harshness, and hastiness protect me, and sweeten my conduct towards those even who have despitely used me.

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*May 27, 1877.*

AS THE END-ALL.

**WY**AIN. O my God, exceedingly vain are the ways and affections of this world. They fill my whole heart with dust and ashes to think of them. I only want Thee; Thee only I ask. Not as I asked Thee in the old days as a by-end, as a means to gratify my selfishness, but as the only end, as the only refuge I have in this world of cruelty and untruth. Visit me in my loneliness and guide Thou my steps clear of the snares of pride and carnality. Like unto a solitary way-farer, let me walk amidst this heat and noise, leaning on the staff of Thy truth and of Thy righteousness, in Thy name.

## THE BLESSING OF BROTHERHOOD.

**G**IVE unto me a brother. My heart yearns after some one whom I may hold by the hand and love and trust in Thy name as one with me in Thee. Heavenly Father, without a holy human brotherhood religious life is like utter exile in this world. Who can share the heart's joys and sorrows as a brother can? Who can help us on in the path of purity and salvation as a brother can? Let not the Brahmo Somaj be deprived of the blessing of true brotherhood, O Good God, but enable us to, merge our many differences in the love and goodwill of religious brotherhood.

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## IMMERSED IN GOD.

**T**HE remembrance of the past haunts me like a hundred demons. What wert Thou only yesterday? The mocking voice of sin calls out. Canst Thou by well doing atone for what Thou hast done amiss? My God, my God, a sinner once, a sinner I shall always be. Bury me in the depth of Thy presence. Let all thought of the past and of the future leave me while I am with Thee. Let me be conscious of Thee, and of nothing else. The blessed oblivion of the past no one can attain, but he unto whom Thou givest it. The blackness of remembered iniquities no one can blot out but the unfathomable light of Thine holy face. Let me be immersed and lost to myself in Thy bosom.

## ESTABLISHED IN GOD.

W<sup>H</sup>Y Thy God dead that Thou shouldst despair? Is Thy Master a stone, or a block that He shall refuse to give Thee hope and compassion? Talk not of Thy grief so much and do not justify thyself, there is one who will justify Thee more than Thou ever canst. Lord, Thou art just; let the whole world be unjust. My Father, Thou art compassionate to the poor, I have nothing to say if all others are cruel. Let me look up to Thee, and find rest.

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*June 10, 1877.*

## THE GRACE OF LOWLINESS.

W<sup>H</sup>Y the bright little flower hath fallen in the dust and upon its pure handsome form the ruthless insects prey. The bright green grass is fresh in its lowly bed, and heeds not in its simple joyfulness, who trample upon its tender bosom. Only I, only I, O Lord, have not chosen to be lowly. When Thy hand brought me low, why did my cheerfulness flee? And when I lay in the dust, why was my face shorn of its brightness? Do not cause this shame to be removed from me, and I pray Thee lift me not up until I have fully learnt to claim all shame as mine, and to find Thy glory in my disgrace. Inward rest amidst outward confusion; inward peace amidst outward shame and humiliation; the grace and joy of lowliness amidst a proud world, my soul hath long sought, and now seeks at Thy door.

## TRUSTFUL FAITH.

**S**HE was vile and degraded, and nobody would touch her. But she had faith, she trusted in the power of holiness and love, she had faith that the Holy One could make her holy, that faith saved her. She trusted, she laboured, she wept and her tear-marks at the good man's feet she wiped with her flowing hair. Lord, say when shall I trust Thee as that poor sinner once did? When shall my unwavering eye wait upcast for Thee alone; and in trust and in repentance, and in true prayer I shall become truly sanctified? Faith makes a man what he wants to become within the twinkling of an eye; how can faith and tearful prayer fail in anything? Teach me, Lord, but to trust in Thee with my whole heart, and lift up mine eye to Thee in sorrow and love.

## OUR RISING GENERATION.

**H**AVE mercy on all doubters and unbelievers, O God of mercy, and condescend to bring them back to the light of peaceful conviction. My heart is troubled to think how many among the rising and promising of our race wander in unsettled faith and vacant souls to be the victims of mortal sin. No one ever taught them the truths of religion and its happiness and manifold consolations they do not know. And now hardened with years and worldly experience, they find it difficult to believe in Thy existence, and glorious attributes. We, in our little

faith and feebleness, cannot reach them or convince them. In utter perplexity and sorrow of spirit we look up to Thee therefore. Show Thyself to the doubting and unbelieving heart, raise its torpid aspirations and love, and, let the promising, the intelligent, and all among our rising generation, trust Thee, find peace in Thee.

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FIGHTING AGAINST GOD.

**B**EHOLD what I have gained in taking arms against Thee, O Thou Almighty One. The whole world has taken arms against me. In alienating myself from Thy friendship, I have made every one my enemy, and do not find a single friend to share my sorrows and sufferings in the wide world. Against whom should I complain, I who have offended so many? Thy justice is my enemy because I have been unjust; and Thine power is my enemy because I have broken Thy laws; and Thy holiness is my enemy also because I am so unholy. Where shall I hide my head now? Cause me to be reconciled to Thee, and cleanse me from my many sins, Father. Show me the light of Thy friendship and the infinite support of union with Thee. Then everyone will be my friend, and the world will be a place of love and sympathy for me.

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MY WEALTH AND STRENGTH.

**B**Y THEE and with Thee for their wealth, the holy ones among mankind have bought over the whole world, O Glorious Being. When one hath

earned Thee, what more remains to be earned in this life? Those who, in the midst of poverty succeed to a mass riches have added honour to their wealth. And those who in the midst of sin and ignorance succeed to acquire the blessedness of Thy wisdom and holiness, must I not give to them? The imperishable glory of feeling Thee to be my whole wealth and strength, Lord, vouchsafe unto me.

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THE RESPONSE

**N** DESERT not Thy wandering flock, O Good Shepherd, but hasten to tend and help the erring.

I watch Thy down-sitting and Thy up-rising, I count Thy sighs and tears, and in my good time will come to Thy rescue.

But behold, O Lord, I tremble, I fall and am sinking, wilt Thou let Thy offspring perish?

When there was yet time, I called unto Thee, and did offer to obey Thee exceedingly. But in the foolishness of Thy heart Thou didst delay, and my call Thou didst set to the score of vain imaginings. To-day, therefore, Thou dost feel so lonesome and helpless. Yet, persevere, be faithful to the end, and fear not: he that crieth unto his God shall live.

Yea, Lord, in crying unto Thee is my strength; all other strength is taken away from me. In crying unto Thee is my consolation and hope. Lord, my home is tottering, and my household is dying and thinning away, and to Thy voice they listen not, and neither will they trust in Thee. I am, therefore, cast down and sad.



Despair not, and neither be Thou cast down. I am the living God, and my right hand shall yet work miracles.—

LORD, I BLESS THEE !

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*June 17, 1877.*

THY REALITY.

NOW real Thou art, O my God, how deeply, calmly, supremely real, Thy reality fills my heart, my mind, my whole being. I forget everything, am lost to everything, and feel everything unimportant in finding Thee to be true. So real in Thyself be real to me in all that surround me in the world. Feeble in faith I cannot see the world real only in Thee, and separated from Thy reality, Lord, the world is nothing but a prolonged scene of vanity and untruth. Set me free from the snares of self-deception and passion, and cause the reality of Thy spirit to shine upon me through every event and object which meets me in life. Lord, inspire me to view the world, and everything in it, through the medium of Thy reality only.

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THY PURPOSE.

DEVOID of Thee, Thy whole dispensation is to me devoid of meaning, and my own life becomes barren of all purpose. Whence did I come,

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whither am I tending, why am I here? I wander backwards and forwards in the wide world. O God, and find not my calling or my place. Shut out by my absence of faith from the right view of Thy all-directing purpose, all things are out of joint and meaningless. Lord, cause Thy will to be revealed to me once more, and make Thy dealings full of significance, and teaching to me.

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## LOYAL TO THEE.

SEEKING the sympathy and approbation of man I have been a loser doubly. Not only have they refused me the encouragement I wanted, but they condemn me for having asked it at all. Lord, Thou art the strength of the lonely, grant that I may serve Thee with meekness and loyalty, and in the midst of these trials keep the devotedness and sweetness of my heart untouched.

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## THE DISCIPLINE OF SILENCE.

PRAY unto Thee again, O God, keep my tongue from speaking evil of others, from slandering, from back-biting, from injuring the bodily and mental state of others. Merciful God, protect me carefully. Long have I been bred in the school of evil conversation, and my thoughts and speech have both become very loose and ungovernable. I wish not to talk the evil into which habit leads me, and uncharitable thoughts crowd upon me in moments of depression

and carelessness. The golden lesson of silence do Thou teach me. Train me in upright and truthful speech, and let my thoughts search out my own many vices, and bitterly reproach myself rather than any one else.

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#### THE LATENT DIVINITY.

**W**HY did I not pay more heed to the directions of my own nature? God of Nature, in every heart which Thine hand hath moulded, Thou hast stored up a mine of truth and beauty. But we have not known it. Wandering outside of ourselves, we have sought for the light, and the wealth that might come to us at home if we had but the faith to look up to Thee, and read Thy hand-writing on our own hearts. Furnish us with the singleness of eye which may discover Thy sanctuary in our bosoms, teach us to bring out and develop Thy purposes concealed in everyman's nature, and serve Thee, God of our spirits, within us, and according to Thy wise directions.

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#### A LIVING RELIGION.

**M**AKE the inward take shape in the outward, O Thou God of power. Make my religion a dear and definite thing embodied in men, events, and institutions. May my soul spiritualize all the relations and objects of life, and may all relations and objects bind up my faith, and make it firm, living,

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full of light, and consolation. An abstract and sentimental religion, O my God, I do not require, a living practical test of faith and life do Thou vouchsafe unto me.

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*June 24. 1877*

GROWING PURER

**S**IMPLY by wishing to be wealthy, who has acquired wealth? If, O my God, there is in my mind the vague wish to be holy, that will not give me the holiness I want. Give unto me the strength to labour to become holy. Father, I want to behold the awful and sanctifying purity of Thy presence, and I pray that I may find the resolution and the firmness so to spend my time and energy that sin will have no part in me.

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CEASELESS PRAYERS.

**W**ORD, teach us to pray. Teach us to pray, O Lord, when all other means fail, and when doubt and darkness fill Thy house. When there are disagreements and estrangements, when there is deep sin, and heavy downfall, O Lord, teach us to pray. Let not distrust and suspicion ever touch the living impulse of prayer. We crave that prayer be the only remedy of our deep disease; that the dead may rise again in prayer; that the desponding and

weak may find in prayer the resource, and the food,  
and the salvation of their souls.

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• AN UNITED HOUSEHOLD.

**I** ASKED myself why should men and women unite? Lord, what should they gain by reconciling themselves to establish union in Thy house? They can seek and pray to Thee each for himself; they can be good and holy without their neighbours. Yet, O God, if they could contemplate the picture of a united household and dispensation, it would not only make them glad but exalt them. Without the high purpose of establishing and fulfilling Thy dispensation, why should anyone labour and suffer to be of one heart with his brethren and sisters. Without such a high purpose what can lift up our sunken hearts? Cause Thy purpose to shine upon us once more; cause it to stimulate us to renewed efforts, to resolve and remove our differences, and make us an united household at Thy feet.

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July 1, 1877.

THE TRUSTFUL ATTITUDE.

**I** AMIDST the storms and struggles of life, Lord, give unto me the grace of trustfulness, teach me to put a child's faith in Thy guidance, and in the leading of my elder brothers. Inspire me with deep and genuine confidence in those who love me and

take true interest in my welfare. Strengthen me with secret trustfulness, and give me the peace of confiding in others. I do not want any one to relieve my sufferings, nor to take the share of my sorrows and humiliation : but, my God, I would always maintain the attitude of trustfulness for the sake of the blessedness which lies in that mood of mind.

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## ABIDE IN ME.

**W**H<sup>Y</sup>HO is so beautiful as Thou art, Thou art the comfort, the strength, and abiding joy of my soul. Eternal sunlight of sweetness, perfectly holy, perfectly living, perfectly awful, perfectly peaceful, Thou alone art real, all else false. Abide in me in the midst of this desolation and gloom, secretly make Thy abode in my heart. Make Thy face to smile upon me when everything else frowns. Bless me that I may live, and work, and rest in Thy light alone as long as I live.

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## SPEAK, LORD

**T**HE voice of the raging storm of trial is loud, but Thy voice, O Thou Pilot of my life, is heard no more. The temptations of the world speak to me with force as before, but Thou speakest no longer. Why art Thou silent, my Master, my Guide, my Father, why wouldst Thou not speak to me as in former times? I know I have been heedless and disobedient, I deserve not to stand in Thy presence.

or to hear Thy voice. Yet how can my soul exist, if Thou wouldst no longer communicate to me Thy truths, and the sweet messages of Thy religion? Let me follow Thee, Lord, wherever Thou art, sit at Thy feet, and listen to Thy voice in all things.

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*July 8, 1877.*

STRONG IN THEE.

THOU, O God, art supreme and blessed, contact with Thee restores freshness, health, and true nature to the soul. Preserve my spirit from premature decline, and let the fulness of feeling and faith last to the end. Give me but to perceive that Thou art the sustenance and strength of my being, my enlightener, and my guide, and I shall faint no longer; nor fear the approach of death. In feebleness and old age be Thou my support. Teach me when to be yielding and when to be stern, when to be indignant, and when to be forgiving. Make me firm and strong in Thee for ever.

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THE FAITHFUL ONES.

I HAVE beheld the endless youthfulness and beauty of the character of Thy prophets. On the river-bank of love in my soul I have seen them standing, my eyes have been filled with the blessed handsomeness of their faces, and I can not forget it. If I shut mine eyes, O my God, Thy sons are there, if

I open mine eyes I see them glorified in the world. Say, my Father, when shall I be like one of them? The love of Thy faithful ones gains upon me, continually gains upon me. I seek not their glory, or their greatness, O Lord, nor a tithe of the obedience and honour wherewith they are justly regarded in the world. I only pray to be faithful, true, and loving, and self-sacrificing as they were. May the sublime beauty of their lives never fade before my vision, and may I incessantly seek their company in my soul.

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## CEASELESS ACTIVITY.

DESCEND in Thy might, O Lord, come down with the fire-breathing animation and enthusiasm of spiritual life. Fill the soul, and fill the body with the consuming breath of Thy inspiration which burns away all sin, all dullness, all indolence. Banish for ever the tendency to sleep from this company, and make everyone watchful, restless, always intent upon the works of flaming enthusiasm. As in other times, which Thou dost remember well, Thou didst rain down fire and endless living activity from heaven to excite whole bodies of men to deeds of spiritual daring, and heroism, thus destroying darkness and wickedness, so now excite us, and keep us engaged incessantly in those things which will cause the regeneration of the land, and the benefit of the world. Vouchsafe unto us ready inspiration, and the living fire of the spirit.



## , MY MINISTRY.

**I** HAVE sought them, O my Father, but they seek me not; I have spoken to them, but they would not speak to me; I have entreated but they would not listen to me. The sweetness and wonderful virtue of Thy goodness I have tried to describe, but they turn away and are silent. They are good and tender-hearted, but not to Thy poor servant. What shall I now do? Say, how can I desert Thy flock unprotected in the wilderness, yet how can I tend them when they take not my service? Descend, O Thou shepherd of shepherds, to inspire and teach me. Teach me how I may minister to Thy family, more sincerely, more tenderly, and with greater devotedness than ever. Dispense Thy light to everyone of us, and by Thy chastening and softening grace cause both Thy sons and daughters to honour Thy words and follow Thy directions.

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MY BLINDNESS.

**W**HAT am I but dust and evil, and shall I venture to contradict Thee, O Thou infinitely exalted above all things! When Thou hast said that Thou art beautiful, I found Thee unhandsome, when Thou hast said Thou art sweet I found Thee ending in bitterness, when Thou hast said Thou art ever-full and ever new my heart found nothing but emptiness in Thee. Lord, by this ceaseless contradiction in the spirit I have fallen away from Thee, and have made myself deeply sinful. Rather make me exalt Thy mercy and holiness above everything,

and cause my mouth to declare Thy sweetness, truth, and beauty more than any other mortal tongue. What Thou canst not say of Thyself, may I say of Thee. For in glorifying Thee, and praising Thee exceedingly, men find great blessedness

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*July 15, 1877.*

THY WORDS

SPEAK, Lord, speak in Thy sweet and holy accents, such as no man can utter—let the whole world be quiet, do Thou alone speak. Thy words are to me the highest, holiest revelation, all that is good, and tender, and pure. Let nothing bar my approach to Thee, and no respect for man check the free flow of my feelings and prayers in Thy presence. Why should I speak as men command me; and not as Thou dost wish, as the simple, and the poor, and the sorrowful may give utterance to their mind when Thou art near?

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FAITHFUL TO THE LAST.

HAST Thou not live in my house as my Father, and my guardian? Why, then, should I fear? Because I am poor, Thou didst never refuse me food; because I am homeless, Thou didst never refuse me shelter; because I am friendless, Thou didst never refuse me Thy love. Thou hast housed me, and fed me, and befriended me, as a Father

might do to his son. Lord, I cannot be ungrateful to Thee. I cannot be unfaithful to Thee. Let me serve Thee, therefore, to my life's end. Let me hope in Thee, trust in Thee, look up to Thee, and bend my head to Thy decrees.

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IN PRAYER

WHEN absorbed in the work of the world, heaven seems to me very far-off. But when, O God, I find Thy children assembled in heartfelt devotion, heavenly scenes are close at hand. There I see the spirits of the good and great sitting close to Thy devotees, there is no sin, no sorrow at that place. In prayer only we approach very near to Thee. Bless us, therefore, that we may pray to Thee always, and that Thy name may ever bring sweet and holiness close to our doors. With brethren, with sisters, let us always assemble in prayer, for then only can we bring heaven on earth.

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THY ALL-SUFFICIENCY.

ARE Thou sufficient for the needs of my heart, O God of holiness and truth. What space can there be left for sorrow, or for desire, when Thy blessedness fills a man's inward being? If Thy love sufficeth for the whole universe, will it not be enough for me? My Father, the faith that *Thou art* compensates for all the falsehood of carnal life, and its relations. Thou lovest me. Does not that fill up

the loss of all friends and relatives? Lord, Thou art glorious and powerful in Thy righteousness, and though I be but a hollow sinner I cry and say that Thy grace is sufficient for me.

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## KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM.

**Y**ES, O my God, in the good garden of humanity Thou didst give man to taste all other kinds of fruits, but only forbade the fruit of knowledge. Knowledge is fair, knowledge is divine, but there is a forbidden ground, in which true wisdom is blindness. In the awful crisis of life, Thou dost bind a man's eyes with Thine own hands, lest in beholding his danger, he cease to live. In faith let me shut my eyes sometimes, and neither question nor wish to satisfy my curiosity as to what Thou dost command me to do. I pray to Thee let me first live over the difficulty, first save me, and then if it please Thee, let me understand the ways through which Thou hast led me to salvation.

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July 22, 1877


## THE FALSE DEITY.

**N**OT to that creature, Lord, but to Thee I offer my devotion. Not to that creature conjured up by my own imagination, who encourages me in every indolence, in every pleasure, nay, even anticipates the carnal wishes of my heart, and gives free

consent thereto, to him no longer would I send up my prayers. Behold by fancying this shadow to be my God I am fallen exceedingly low, both morally and religiously. Let the false imaginary deity disappear: do Thou alone command me and lead me to salvation. Thou wouldst never minister unto my desires, but lead me through hard and thorny ways perhaps, but lead me unfailing to truth and holiness. God of truth, do Thou alone reign in my heart.


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#### THE HOLY HOUSEHOLD.

UR hearts aspire once more to that holy household, O God, in which men and women live a blessed life under the umbrella of Thy sheltering feet. Why should we not enjoy true heavenly content in our relations as parents and children, as brothers and sisters in this world? Teach us to forsake selfishness and sin, all that severs us from Thee and from each other and enable us to live in sweet and godly content, in purity, joy, and mutual service.

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#### WORTHY OF THE FAITH.

F the drama of our religious life ends in a tragedy, O Father, what will be the future of this land? If in separation, and death, and quarrel, and bloodshed the last chapters of our lives close, what will be the destiny and end of the nation that waits outside? They say these men pray and call

upon God for the inspiration of love and holiness, let us wait, and see how it turns out. And if we turn out unrighteous and unloving, will not despair and darkness sit upon the face of the land? Bring our efforts therefore to a harmonious and worthy close. By force and by compulsion make us holy, true, and worthy of the faith Thou hast given us.

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MUTUALLY HELPFUL.

REVEAL unto me the purposes of Thy dispensation, O Lord, that I may find accession to my faith. Remove the curtain of darkness and doubt from before mine eye that the heavenly realities may be unfolded. Say how Thy sons will stand related, and what will Thy daughters do. Give us the good sense and strength not to mislead each other, but to be mutually helpful, and open out and develop each other's destiny.

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RIGHTEOUS RELATIONSHIP.

HAVE mercy, O our Father, upon those members of our church who are so often liable to forsake spirituality and prayer, and indulge in wild dreams of social and secular improvement. Turn the scoffers and the slanderers to the right path of self-examination and humility, and the mistrustful spirit to brotherly love and trust. Teach the elder brother to love and forgive the younger, and the younger to honour and obey the elder. Teach our men to help, respect, bear with, and tenderly care for the women,

and our women to depend upon, to be patient with, and learn from the men. Lord, bind Thy household in the relations of sound and sober righteousness.

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*July 29, 1877.*

THE SAFE HAVEN.

SAY Lord, shall the bark of life reach the safe harbour of Thy salvation? Speak of the future and make it sure, O Thou who knowest all things. Who among us is steering aright, his boat sound, and his destination sure, we do not know. Perhaps all of us are not to reach the port, some will be wrecked on the rock of vanity, and some on the shoal of sin, and some will sink because of the weakness, and worthlessness of their vessels. But we do not know who will reach, and who will not. We pray to Thee after these long years' of dangerous and painful voyage, Lord, lead us to the safe haven at last, and cause the future to redeem the promises of the past.

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RELIGION AND WORLDLINESS.

IF men must prove unworthy of their causes O God, keep Thy religion pure at all times. If men must be impure and worldly, preserve the heavenliness and purity of Thy faith. If Thou hadst sent us preaching and singing for years through the country, could we have remained at home to look after the affairs and comforts of our families? Now be,

cause Thou hast kept us, and our families together, fed us, and clothed us, shall we take advantage of Thy mercy and turn worldly-minded and ease-loving Father, keep us from the snares of the world, pure and resigned to Thy will always

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FEARLESSNESS

**G**OD, if my conscience had nothing to remember against Thee I should be afraid of no man. But when my heart is defiled, even the stir of a leaf on the tree is a cause of fright and depression. In making me sinless, make me fearless. In making my conscience clean, make it courageous and firm. Cover me with the mantle of Thy purity, and the armour of Thy righteousness, and in Thy strength make my weakness a cause of strength to me.

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THE MANLINESS OF DEPENDENCE

**B**EHOLD, O Lord, I have long arrived at man's estate, but I have no manliness. The manliness to endure and act, and be true to Thee amidst the obstructions and enmities of the world I do not possess. The sense of power that comes from feeling that Thou art on my side, and Thy right hand protects me leaves me ever so often. The quiet and calm manliness of thorough dependence upon Thee, and looking up to Thee only for vindication, and the defence of my cause I want. Vouchsafe unto



me the faith, the obedience, and the oneness of spirit with Thee without which there can be no manliness of any kind.

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*August 5, 1877.*

A CONSUMING FIRE.

**B**E like unto a consuming fire in my soul, O Thou God of truth. Burn in the fulness of Thy light and reality. Let me live in Thee as in a blazing fire. May Thy fire cleanse me from untruth, from sin, from selfishness, from death—moral and spiritual. When Thou art present before mine eye like a living fire, what darkness can there be and what fear. I will follow Thee to the end of the earth. When Thou art, and cold before me, am I not blind and deaf? Therefore, O my God, be a consuming fire to me, and shine before me always in the fulness of Thy life and glory.

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EARNEST CONTEMPLATION.

**I**F what a man thinks that he is, why should I not think of Thee without ceasing. Alas! during the lifelong day how rarely do I think of Thee! O Lord, let the sum of my being lie in my thoughts of Thee. In all things may my contemplation of Thy purposes and goodness guide me. In all my engagements let me think of Thy will, and Thy pleasure. Father, let me be earnest in thinking of Thee always, and let my whole life be spent in Thy contemplation.

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MY SPECIAL WORK.

**C**AUSE me to find out my calling, O God, and let me not neglect it, however humble it may be. Master, make me able to be faithful in the discharge of such duties as Thou hast entrusted to me! Let me do them well, and take pains to that effect. However humble a servant I may be, make me a true and faithful servant. Let me spare neither zeal nor energy in doing what I can for Thee by serving Thy children, and being useful in Thy house.

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## BREATH OF HEAVEN.

**M**ULTIPLY holy impulses within my soul by breathing Thy spirit into me, and let me follow these impulses as they arise. O Lord, speak Thy special purposes to me that I may listen to them, and carry them out with all my heart.

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## AFFLICTION IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

**L**ORD, I lift up my eyes to Thee in humble prayer for the thousands of our countrymen and countrywomen in Southern India who are suffering and perishing for want of food. While we are here in the midst of plenty and comfort, behold, O God, Thy children there are in the midst of the most dreadful misery, starving with their dear ones, and finding little help. Soften the hearts of those who can render them aid, and dispose us all to do what

we can to relieve their agony. Softly and rightly dispose the hearts of those who govern and wield power in this land that they may feel and discharge their graver responsibility before Thee at this crisis. Cause Thy pity to descend upon the poor famine stricken, so that their sufferings may eod before long.

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TO THE LAND OF REALITY.

**M**Y Father, now give me leave to go away. Far, far on the other side of the sea of worldliness into the laod of the prayerful and poor in spirit, where passion aod carnality are oo more, and the contemplative and devout sit around Thee and behold Thy beauteous face forever, I would go. I would go like a beggar, like ooe who has renounced everything in Thy name. And there, O Father, I trust I will meet with my friends and dear ones once more, no looger in worldly relation but in the relation of holy and spiritual affection, and there I will speak to them of Thee, and they will speak to me, as Thy chosen and blessed speak. Lord, how long, yet how long shall I tarry in this land of shadows? Lead me by the right hand to the land of reality which is beyond the sea of the world and the flesh.

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*August 12, 1877.*

DEATH AND IMMORTALITY.

**D**ELIVER us from the bondage of death, O Lord; and let oo decay eoter into Thy household. What power hath sin over Thy children, and why

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should despair ever threaten them? Ever inspired with hope and holiness, ever alive and strong in Thy life and power let them conquer death, and repose in Thy immortality. Come in our midst as the conqueror of death and abide with us, O Immortal Spirit, in time and eternity.

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SUSTAINED SPIRITUALITY.

**G**RIEVED for my sins in the morning, I am reckless and self-indulgent again in the evening. Aspiring to be religious to-day I am thoroughly worldly-minded and unbelieving, on the morrow. My soul has no sustained life in Thee, O my God, and my determination to purify myself is most unsteady. Send down upon my soul gravity and constancy, and make me always equally anxious for self-reformation.

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*August 19, 1877.*

PRIDE OF INTELLECT.

**P**RAY unto Thee, O God, suffer me not to be led away by the pride of intellect. In the kingdom of Thy salvation, those who are guided by their own sense often stumble and fall. Many have so fallen, and I may follow them one of these days. But, Father, those who look up to Thee in dependence and love, though blind, yet walk safely and quickly in the road which leads to peace and light. I humbly

pray that I may be one of them, and forsaking my own intellect and sense and experience I may be led like a child by Thy will alone in the tangled mazes of life. In search of Thee and Thy paths, my intellect has often misled me, and Thy spirit is the one sure guide and light.

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TRUE HUMILITY.

**K**INDLE within me the flame of enthusiasm of Thy love. The darkness of age gathers around me, and the discouragement of circumstances overtakes me; O Lord, warm me with Thy life-giving love. The world is spread with dead men's bones far and near, and its example strikes a chill in the soul. Friends are falling and dear ones have departed, and there are many ready to bid farewell to Thee and Thy truth. How can I do battle with this army of death, if the fire and fervour of Thy spirit did not uphold me? Forsake me not, therefore, in the coldness and desolation of life, but be with me to warm and encourage and kindle a flame of holy enthusiasm. Teach me O Lord, to bend and bow my head before Thee. It is not the humility of bodily posture that I pray for, but the ever dependent attitude of soul. Lord, there have been those who have laid the whole burden of their desire and affections before Thy holy feet. And there have been others who have placed their bleeding lives before Thee in humble self-surrender, and died meekly to serve Thy holy will, and have there not been others who struck with the holiness and splendor of Thy beauty, have fallen in Thy presence, seeking refuge at Thy footstool,

These, O Lord, have bowed and bent before Thee in a proper manner. When wilt Thou make me one of them, when wilt my proud uplifted head droop in holy submission before Thy holy throne, and remain in that posture in life and death ever more?

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*August 26, 1877.*

NATURE AND HUMANITY.

**F**ATHER, nature draws nature, and there is no wonder, nor is there any virtue in this. It is Thou who didst make my nature, and the nature that draws me outside. I want to speak to the flower, to the green leaf, to the grass that grows underneath, and the bird that sings, because they speak to me of Thee. In the love of the beautiful nature that is on all sides Thy child finds much rest of spirit and joy. Father, there is no quarrel there, no jealousy, anger, or evil feeling. But who can spend his life among trees and flowers always, I must come back to the world however little I may wish to do so. And behold, O my God, there is misery and uncleanness, and want of peace for me. Lord, I pray to Thee, make me able to keep up my nature in the midst of the scenes of life; in the midst of all that harasses, troubles, and distracts. One grain, at least, of the holy nature which is developed while I am in the midst of rival scenes, let me preserve while I perform the arduous work of life. And when I have laid down the burden of that work let me hasten again amidst the purities and joys of rural scenery there to find my repose and joy.

## TRANSFORMED BY THEE.

WHOSE who are with Thee constantly, O good Lord, become like unto Thee, such is the virtue of Thy communion. By frequently mingling with Thee in spirit, man attains to the beauty of Thy resemblance, and at last receives and retains of Thy nature very largely. And yet, O holy Spirit I have not been transformed by Thee, my body weighs down my soul. I long to be in Thy company always, that by slow degrees I too may become like Thee. Repeatedly and unremittently keep me with Thee, therefore, that at last my spirit may live in Thee wholly.

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*September 16, 1877.*

## ENCOURAGEMENT.

WORD, I have served my brothers and sisters laboriously and zealously these five and twenty years. But I have had no reward. They do not encourage me, they do not smile upon me. They do not say—well done, brother. They even annoy me and grieve me with words which indicate distrust. They do not love me as a brother, they do not respect my talents, they do not gratefully acknowledge my services. Instead of honouring me they treat me with disrespect; instead of encouraging me with kind words they damp my spirits and I feel no heart to work for them any longer. I feel, O my God, that they are bound to protect and honour and serve me, meet my wants, redress my grievances,

add to my comforts and increase my usefulness, for I have resigned myself into Thy hands and their hands, and I have none else to look to. If my best friends give me up, where am I to go? If they persecute me, where shall I get comfort? If they do not serve me wilt Thou not judge them?

Thou shalt not expect services in return for thy services, saith the Lord. If thou art faithful thy reward is in heaven. Seek no earthly reward not even the smiles of friends. Even they of his own household shall persecute my servant; therefore be prepared for the worst. Go on serving thy brethren, no matter how they treat thee. Do not labour like the hireling, expecting compensation for thy services. But work disinterestedly, expecting nothing, claiming nothing, demanding nothing.

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SINCERITY

**W**ORSHIPPER—I again approach Thee humbly, O my God. Hear my prayer.

Heavenly Voice—Thou shalt not approach me till thou hast redeemed the promise thou madest before me yesterday. Thou didst solemnly vow the renunciation of certain vicious habits, and thou comest coolly before me without making any effort to redeem thy vow. Can man deceive me? I shall have sincere and honest prayers. The hypocrite's words I hear not. Go and repent, and then come with a heart full of sincerity and thou shalt be heard.

Worshipper—I am here again, O God, hear me.

Heavenly Voice—Come, beloved disciple, sit close to My throne. I wish to hear thee pray. Thy tender



voice I like to hear, for I know thou wilt speak like a child, and tell me many things about the joys of thine inner life. I wish to remain day and night with my beloved children. Therefore come to me often, and I shall give thee heavenly treasure.

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*September 23, 1877.*

SECRETS OF SALVATION.

LORD, how the more devout among Thy children are going into the inner chambers to hear the secrets of salvation, while I, Thine unworthy servant, stand at the outer gate. Father, when shall I join their ranks? When shall I sit with them at Thy feet, and hear these sweet words which they alone are privileged to hear who love Thee excessively? Thy published word I have read; Thy secrets, O Lord, reveal unto me.

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POPULARITY.

THE world does not yet regard me as its enemy. THIS distresses me, O God. I am sorry I am so popular still. They that serve Thee and work righteousness are unpopular, and as they grow in faith and love they are hated and despised by the world and deserted by their friends. Lord, have I done nothing to merit unpopularity and odium? Have I not given Thee enough evidence of my love and devotion to excite the animosity and derision

of the world? My popularity is my curse. O God, save me from it.

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## TRUE CHARITY.

HEAVENLY Voice—I am well pleased with thee, beloved child, for in my books I see entered against thy name the sum of ten thousand rupees as thy contribution to the Madras famine fund.

Worshipper—My God, I feel ashamed, I do not remember having paid a single rupee to the fund.

Heavenly Voice—I saw thee the other night shedding tears over the distress of thy Madras brethren with genuine compassion, and I heard thee express a wish to give Rs. 10,000 to the sufferers.

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## ABSENCE FROM CHURCH.

HEAVENLY Voice—Why hast thou been absent from my house so long? I have missed thee there for more than two months.

Worshipper—Lord, I assure Thee I have attended church all these weeks most punctually and attended every part of the service.

Heavenly Voice—Thy body was in the tabernacle, true, but thy spirit I saw in the bank transacting business with a number of brokers, or in the steam yacht going out on a holiday excursion, or elsewhere pursuing gold or pleasure. If thy spirit is not in the temple thou art not there.

September 30, 1877.

SECRET COUNSEL.

I HAVE often felt, O my God, that Thou hast some secret counsel to offer, and that Thou hast been incessantly watching and waiting for an opportunity. Such opportunity has not yet come. My soul has not yet turned towards Thee in a favourable attitude, and the message has consequently been withheld. When, O when shall I hear that precious secret from Thy lips? Lord, make me fit to receive it, and mercifully reveal it to me. To know that secret is to be saved.

DEPENDENCE.

WHATSOEVER cometh from Thee, O Lord, prosperity or adversity, pleasure or sorrow, is good for me. Whatsoever I create for myself is a curse unto me, as I have learnt by experience. Often have I acquired honour, wealth and comfort by my own zealous exertions, but these instead of doing good to me proved in the end most harmful to my soul. Often too have I mortified myself, but self-imposed hardships have injured instead of helping my asceticism and devotion. But I thank Thee, my Father, that Thy rod has always chastened me no less than Thy most precious gifts. If Thou givest me gold it is as good as salvation. Teach me to seek neither gold nor starvation, but to trust Thee and love Thy decrees.

## WOUNDING GOD.

HEAVENLY Voice—Why didst thou abuse Me yesterday, refractory child?

Worshipper—I said nothing against Thee, my God.

Heavenly Voice—But thou didst abuse thy brother, and whatsoever invectives were hurled against him came and pierced Me. Behold I bleed, thou hast so cruelly pierced Me with the deadly shafts of angry reviling.

## GIFTS.

HEAVENLY Voice—This pice, beloved child, thy gift to Me, I kiss every day.

Worshipper—I never gave Thee ought, my God.

Heavenly Voice—But thou gavest to that blind child of pennyry.

October 14, 1877.

## PROPHETS.

GRANT, O Lord, that I may love and honor the prophets and martyrs of ancient times, who lived and died for me, and grant that I may attain self-denying asceticism and godliness for their sake. Thou lovest me and for my spiritual benefit Thou didst send them to the world. Bless their lives and examples unto my sanctification. How much

sorrow they suffered, what painful humiliation, infamy, persecution and death, all for my salvation ! O Father, give me such faith and devotion that I may always realize my personal obligations to the world's heroes and prophets, and strive after purity for the sake of their suffering and death.

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## IDOLATRY.

**O** GOD, this is the second of the three days of annual festivity during which all Bengal revels in idolatry and its concomitant evils. Teach us to remember Thee during this trying season and invoke Thy blessing upon our unfortunate country. Save our dear country, O Lord of nations, from idolatry and all that dishonors Thy holy name. Save our brethren from dissipation and drunkenness and all the vices which accompany this idolatrous festival, but teach them to retain all that is good and holy therein. Almighty God, strengthen Thy beloved church and make it prosper in this land.

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*October 21, 1877.*

## IDOL OF THE HEART.

**I** DESIRE to behold and enjoy Thee, O my God, as an ever-beautiful and ever-sweet idol of the heart. The rationalists have put snares around me ; from these, O Lord, save me. They wish me to accept Thee as a dreary metaphysical reality, a mere

intelligent or good something. I will not follow their path. But, Friend of my distressed soul, I will seek the beauty of Thy face. Thou hast a face, I know, and of extreme beauty it is. The eye hath not seen it, imagination cannot conceive it; yet faith beholds that loving countenance. Neither hast Thou eyes nor ears. Thy face is made of love and intelligence, power and purity and joy, for Thou art spirit, O God. That sweet face, Father, help me to see.

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MUTUAL LOVE.

NEARNESS, O God, has diminished our mutual love instead of augmenting it. We have lived too near each other these few years and our intimate knowledge of each other's failings has sadly embittered our mutual relations. We know that those around us are our brethren in Thee, O Lord, and our best friends on earth. Yet we cannot love and honor them as we should. Their little failings estrange us, and in small differences we forget the large bonds Thou hast established among us. Is it age, O God, that has taken away the sweetness of friendship? Father, restore that sweetness, and help us to dwell once more as a happy family around Thy heavenly feet.

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October 28, 1877

MY DEAR ONES.

WHERE are my dear ones of this world, and where am I? Lord, in the solitude of Thy eternal presence I stand, and a darkness separates

me from all the rest. Lord, as I behold Thee, I forget that I have any one in this world. Immerse me in the blessedness of Thy contemplation, and exclude all other thought. Behold, anxieties and vain cares for others sicken me, and depress me. Yet how can I be indifferent to those whom Thou hast brought so near to my heart? But I would penetrate deeper, and still deeper into the blessedness and sanctity of Thy communion, I would be utterly forgetful of every thing and every one, and at last find in Thee my dearest ones gathered together again

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USE ME.

**MY** Master, I bring before Thee the best part of my manhood. Take it, touch it, let it be exclusively consecrated to Thy service. I would spend myself completely in obeying Thee. I would fain grow old and feeble in Thy sight, and as Thy servant. I ask no other reward but the reward of finding Thy holiness within my soul. I ask for no other encouragement, than that of feeling Thy grace dwelling within my heart. O my God, hitherto I have been a hireling, idling for my own pleasure or working in the hope of men's favours. Henceforth make me a good and faithful servant working for the delight of Thy service alone. Take as Thy own the whole of my manhood, and let it be of some use in Thy household.

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November 4, 1877.

## PECULIAR HABITS.

**G**OD, they ridicule me and annoy me and find fault with my habits. But their criticisms are a snare, and they seek the destruction of my soul. Therefore I beseech Thee my God, my Good God, to save me from the evil counsel of such men. If I am an ascetic and a *faqir*, they despise me and shun my company; if I am engaged in the world's service they hate me also. Father, I will not be judged by men, nor would I follow their dictates. Thou art my only Guide. Teach me to do that which is hateful to the world but agreeable to Thy will.

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## THE LILY

**M**Y God, I love the lily, the soft, pure lily made by Thy hand. I love it also because Thy beloved son blessed that heavenly flower when he said, Behold the lilies of the field! Make my passion for pretty flowers a holy passion. May flowers and flower gardens sanctify and sweeten my heart!

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November 11, 1877.

## MECKNESS.

**M**ERCIFUL Father, save me from that vulgar error prevalent among us all, that no one can get on in the world if he possesses a meek and



forgiving temper. This is generally argued that the helpless lamb must fall a prey to ferocious wolves, and that those who are resolved to turn the right cheek when the left is struck, must soon succumb to annoyance and persecution at the hands of their oppressors. Is it true, O God, that a good and forgiving man has no room in this wicked world? Is it true that if we wish to live and do our duty, we must take an eye for an eye? Thy dear name, O Lord, of the Long-suffering is a reply to this question, and I will no longer be an enemy of forgiveness. Teach me patience and curb my anger. Teach me that if my enemies harass me I must continue to love them for Thou lovest me, Good God, although I am Thine enemy. Lord, make me meek as a lamb.

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*November 18, 1877.*

SELF-CONSECRATION.

**W**HEN the day has come, my Father, when I must make my will. All that I have must be duly disposed of. Thou gavest me all, and to Thee I leave everything I can call my own. Lord, deign to take my all, and only give me permission to be thy bondsman for the remaining days of my life. My property is Thine to dispose of, my dear ones it is for Thee to feed and shelter. If it be Thy pleasure, give them a handful to eat every day, and give them a home where they may live in peace, sing thy name, and serve thy cause. If it be Thy pleasure, teach me, and suffer me to go away from the world to Thee.

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My body, my mind, and all that belongeth to me,  
becomes thine from this day, and forever.

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## BEARING BURDENS.

**THOU** bearest everybody's burden, O my Sovereign Master, but no one beareth Thy burden. Thou hast willingly taken upon thyself the heavy charge of making all men happy, but who hath undertaken, and who can undertake the charge of adding to Thy happiness and perfection. Lord, I wish to cease to be burdensome to any man. I pray that I may cease to press upon my neighbours, though the pressure of others I would bear upon my own head. When I feel my load to be heavy, hold me my good Father, let me not sink on the pathway of life but casting my cares upon Thee, find sweet rest.

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## A HOUSE AND TEMPLE.

**GIVE** me a house, O God, which shall be unto me a house as well as a temple. I have always regarded my habitation as a mere dwelling house and the church as a place of worship quite apart from the other. Teach me and help me to unite the two, so as to make my house Thy house too, and Thy house my house also. Plant Thy holy temple in my house, and enable me, Lord of my life, to perform my daily duties and manage all my domestic concerns according to Thy will. May I not adore Thee as a mere Sunday Divinity, but grant, O Merciful

ful Father, that I may daily and hourly serve Thee in the midst of all the details of household duty.

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## TRUE GUIDE.

IS it safe, my God, to walk according to the counsels of men? My friends have often told me that if I wish to achieve success in my worldly avocations or my spiritual pursuits, I must follow the guidance of wise men and not trust my own judgment. Lord, I see no wisdom in the world: even its best men are not fit to guide. I gather more wisdom from Thee through humble prayer in a day than the books and sages of the world can teach in a month. I will not therefore follow the deceitful teaching of worldly man, but in all things humbly seek the inspiration of Thy heavenly voice.

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*November 25, 1877.*

## DIVINE JUSTICE.

THOU art our Judge, O God, and Thy judgment is severe. Thou judgest Thy refractory children with strict and unyielding justice. Foolishly do many imagine that Thou shalt apply the same standard to all. Thou requirest Lord, more from those to whom Thou hast given more. If we are possessed of greater talents, powers and privileges, and greater opportunities of doing good, sure it is that we shall be subjected to a most searching and

strict examination, and punished most severely for our transgressions and shortcomings. Help us, therefore, O God, to make a faithful and full use of our powers and opportunities, that we may be able to stand before Thy judgment without fear.

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#### FEAR AND LOVE.

WHERE is one thing, my God, which makes me <sup>so</sup> very anxious. It is this. Having loved Thee as my Father and Mother I now feel I cannot fear Thee, as a transgressor like myself should fear the great Judge. The fact is I love Thee, and yet I love and cherish my sins too. Assuredly my love for Thee is not genuine, pure love. Teach me, God, to harmonize sweet love with chastening fear, that I may, while loving Thee with passionate attachment, root out whatsoever is wrong in my heart. If I cannot fear Thee, Lord, let Thy holy spirit so sanctify my inner nature that there may be left no cause for fear.

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*December 2, 1877.*

#### LANGUAGE OF PRAYER.

THE language of the devotion I employ in my <sup>own</sup> prayers and supplications before Thee, O My God, has been sharply criticised by those about me. Thou wilt, I am sure, justify me, for Thou knowest the secret of this peculiarity in the style I have of

late adopted. I feel great difficulty; O Lord, in using stereotyped words and phrases. The language generally used suits not my purposes. My inmost feelings, my real thoughts, I cannot express nor can I suppress. Therefore, O God, I wish to use plain and simple language towards Thee so that I may be true to my heart. I desire not to offer elegant prayers, but real prayers. I wish to talk to Thee, My God, for that is my business, and not pray with a view to please men.

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#### UNSTEADINESS.

FROM unsteadiness set me free, O My God. <sup>(2)</sup> Chameleon-like I have changed my colours often and often. My character is unsteady, and the foundation thereof unstable. I am not to-day what I was yesterday, and to-morrow you will find me an altered man. Those whose character Thy hand has formed and shaped, change not, move not though the most adverse circumstances beset them and try their faith and purity. They are strong in Thy strength, and they never compromise or sacrifice their principles. Make me, Kind God, firm as a rock.

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*December 9, 1877.*

#### OLD AGE.

THEY tell me, O Lord, I am getting old. I do not see however, how my God, one can be old who has an ocean of work yet to perform. He

who has almost finished his work on earth is no doubt old and is so worn out, decrepit, despondent and misanthropic that he may be said to have completed his three score and ten. But, O my Master, how can I believe that my time has expired when I am just on the threshold of my work, and full of earnest hope and warm spirits? I am quite a young man, having just entered Thy service. I am not, and will not be among the pensioners.

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TRUST.

**W**HAT sort of home hast Thou built for me, Great Architect, in the next world? Forgive my curiosity, and if it be wrong, kill it. If it be Thy will that this man of clay shall not peep behind the curtain, into the mysteries of the future life, teach me to bow to Thy decree and reckon my ignorance of what is hidden, a blessing. To know Thy truth is a privilege and blessing but ignorantly and blindly to trust Thee, O my God, where Thou dost enjoin ignorance and blindness, is a blessing and a joy.

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*December 16, 1877.*

MANLINESS.

**T**EACH me self-respect, O my God. Worldliness and carnality have made me mean and idle. In all things, in all my dealings with the world I am

conscious of an abject dependence upon others and a servile expectation of services which are truly loathsome. I have so far demeaned myself that those around me hate my inability to take care of myself and my indolent and insolent demands for services which I do not deserve. Help me, Lord, to do the full share of the work Thou hast assigned to me, with my own hand. Make me industrious and honest, active and persevering, and teach me to rely as little as possible upon the bounty and favour of others for my livelihood and comfort. Almighty God, vouchsafe unto Thy servant manly and noble independence.

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BROTHERLY AFFECTION.

**I** AM always busy, O God, in rendering unto others the services of the hand and trying to please them with outward kindness and practical favours. My hand serves them but my hardened and selfish heart is far, very far from true love. Affection is exalted in Thy scripture above charitable deeds, and love above sweet words. Merciful Father, teach me that genuine affection for brothers and sisters, that sincere solicitude for their wants, that constant anxiety and watchfulness, that untiring sympathy which alone can unite my spirit with theirs in the enduring bonds of loving fellowship. May I do as much as I can to promote their welfare; but may I always feel intensely and deeply for those whom Thou hast taught me to regard as members of my household.

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*December 23, 1877.*

FOR INDIAN YOUTHS.

**W**ORD, cause the words of our Viceroy to thrill and move the hearts of all Indian youths throughout the country. Bless the salutary warning and sage counsel administered by the highest in the land unto the good of the present and future generations of our countrymen. It is seldom, O God, that men in high places give sound moral lessons, and therefore we beseech Thee, now that such lessons have been offered by the highest ruling authority, to make them take root in the hearts of our young men. Teach them to turn from book-learning and secular knowledge to that moral education and discipline which perfects manhood.

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HUMILITY BEFORE MAN.

**W**HO be humble before Thy heavenly throne is easy, O Lord, but hard, very hard to humble myself before man. To acknowledge myself as Thy servant costs nothing, involves no sacrifice, it does not wound my pride, it does not degrade me before men; on the contrary, it is an honour and a glory to be able to cling to Thee as the dust of Thy feet. But to be man's obedient servant is derogatory to my honor and requires considerable self-sacrifice. Lord, teach me to be truly humble so that I may be able to sit at the feet of those whom I look upon as my inferiors and those who are my enemies.



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 LOWER ANIMALS.

**T**HERE is not a sparrow, not an ant, O Lord, that is not protected by Thy loving and watchful Providence. Thou art kind not only to saints in heaven and on earth, but also to the meanest reptile and the smallest insect that men tread under their feet. If Thou art so kind to these dumb creatures why shall I not be, I who boast of being Thy child and disciple? Puffed with arrogance, O God, I hate the little sparrow, and think it meanness to take care of the tiny ant crawling on the ground. And behold! I am infinitely smaller in comparison with Thee, Great God, than these creatures are before me. And yet I despise them as low, while they are found deserving of Thy love and compassion. Father, humble me to the dust and make me a Jain that I may love and honor the least of Thy creatures.

---

 KALPATARU.

**T**HE Hindus call Thee Kalpataru, O God. Thou art the fabled tree, that yields whatsoever fruit the devotee wishes, grantest all the desires of Thy servants, and Thou never disappointest them. It is not merely purity and joy that Thou dost bestow upon them, but even those temporal blessings which are needful to them. Father, Thou art not only their Saviour but also their household Deity, the Guardian both of the soul and the body, the Dispenser of bread as well as the bread of life. Thy beloved child is troubled with no want, for every want, physical and spiritual, is removed by Thy loving providence.

---

Teach me, Lord, to cling to Thy feet, as Thy devotees do, as my all in all, my earthly treasure and my salvation in heaven.

---

*December 30, 1877.*

DAILY WORSHIP.

**M**Y words are apt to become stale and weak, O God, and daily worship, once so powerful, loses its power day after day as soon as it loses its novelty. Lord, freshness is power in the moral world. The more I lose freshness the more I lose my vitality. I beseech Thee to make my prayers fresh every morning, so that they may be strong enough to influence my character and vanquish my sins. Thy name, Almighty God, is a great power; but if its habitual utterance without emotion or zeal makes it feeble and unable to cope with evil, how can I profit by it? Therefore I pray unto Thee make every sacred word, uttered ever so many times, a source of redeeming power.

---

THY PRESENCE.

**W**HAT Thou art true, God, is a truth I have yet to learn. I know Thou art, but I must feel vividly what I know only intellectually. Thy presence before me as a living reality is a fact of which I desire to be more feelingly convinced than I have yet been. The world is real; this I know and feel,

for I see its reality. So reveal Thyself to me, O my God that I may see Thy reality as clearly as I see the reality of unreal objects. Be unto me most real, and teach me to carry Thy presence with me wherever I go as a burning reality.

---

[Vide Page 203, line 13 from top : Please read instead—  
is not genuine pure love. So at least say: my conscience. And  
yet I cannot believe that I do not love Thee. Teach me, God  
etc. . . .]

*December 31, 1876.*

## MORNING PRAYERS.

**AT** the early dawn of day. O my God, fill my soul with the presence of Thy Spirit. I invoke Thy light and love to enter into me, and inspire me with right feelings towards all men, and right motives under all circumstances of my daily life. In the blessedness of Thy communion, and in the honourable occupation of working in Thy field may the whole day pass.

"All hallowed be our walk this day,  
May mornings form our early ray,  
And faithful love our noontide light,  
And hope our sunset calm and bright ;  
May grace each idle thought control,  
And sanctify our wayward soul ;  
May guilt depart and malice cease,  
And all within be joy and peace."

IN THY SIGHT.

TEACH me sober wisdom, O Lord of Truth, and  
let me see things not according to my imagination, but in the light which fills thine love. Let my relations to my circumstances and surroundings be regulated in the manner that appears best in Thy sight.

---

THY MOTHERLINESS.

HOW sweet and infinite is the motherliness of Thy nature, O Thou Holy Spirit, combining unspeakable beauty with unspeakable love. The most intense affection of this world is but the faint shadow of Thy tenderness. Why should I not be enchanted with Thy motherly love to me, I who am motherless and fatherless alike. Wash my wearied and friendless heart with the refreshing showers of Thy tender grace. charm me with the celestial handsomeness of Thy glorious presence, and draw me unto Thee as a mother draweth her child.

---

RENOUNCING CARNALITY.

OFTEN have I said, I would lay my flesh unto the dust of this world, and fly to Thy holy mansion above, O my Father. How often have I said I would crucify and renounce for ever all that is carnal in me. But, O my Saviour, I am still a poor worm of this earth, grovelling in the midst of what

is vile and carnal. When wilt Thou give me rest, and put into my hand the cup of sanctity, which he who drinks becomes pure for ever. O Lord I long to be meek and holy as Thy faithful children are.

*January 7, 1877.*

DEFINITE PRAYERS.

THE desires that lead me to pray unto Thee, O my God, are not sufficiently strong and clear in my heart. I have but few wishes for the fulfilment of which I look to Thee ardently and always. Foster in me definite and powerful desires, such as I may lay before Thee, and ask Thee to grant. Make my sorrows and wants very real; and make me restless with holy desires. Father, how blessed they are whose petitions are clearly and persistently laid before Thee; who know every day what they have to say, and to whom Thou dost always grant what they ask from Thee.

---

SINNERS.

HOW strong and blessed is their hope whom Thou hast marked as sinners but promised to save, O gracious Lord! Their sinfulness even be-

comes their friend, and urges them continually to prayer, and meditation and holy meekness. Father, fill me with very strong hope always, and let the evil in me harden me for struggle, and self-submission to Thy will.

---

## THE PRIDE OF INTELLECT.

UPON the learned and the studious, cause Thy true light and blessedness to descend, O God of Truth. Set them free from the pride of intellect, and the presumption of manners. Teach them that Thou art found not in books, nor in the exercise of understanding, but in the gentle and contrite heart. Enable them to see the beauty of humbleness, and sweetness of spirit, and the desire to learn from Thee what Thou alone canst teach.

---

## FREE US FROM EVIL.

FROM the strange inconsistencies of a piety that is assumed in Thy presence, and left aside in ordinary deed and life, God deliver us for ever. May we never rest contented until we find that our words are perfectly truthful, and motives are perfectly pure. From secretly doing anything which cannot be openly done and known, deliver us. We have found that we can pray and still continue very evil. This is that form of the evil which is dangerous, and from it set us free.



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*January 21, 1877.*

## THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL.

**G**AUSE Thy blessing, Kind Lord, to descend on all our brethren assembled on the occasion of our anniversary festival. They have come with high hopes after all the hard struggles and painful experiences of the past year. They have come to enjoy Thy grace, purify their lives, and enter into holy communion with Thee and with each other. O God, grant their desires. Be with each of us throughout the festival, and make it a source of purity and joy to us all.

---

## EUROPEAN WAR.

**I**T seems, Lord, that war is imminent in Europe. Should it break out it is sure to bring dire calamities in its train. The heart trembles as it views the gloomy and appalling prospect. Vouchsafe unto the offending nation good sense and mature judgment, and so move its rulers and their counsellors that they may yet realize the enormity of their offence and the disasters and sufferings into which they are about to plunge themselves and the world. Father, may the love of peace prevail in the councils of nations and may a higher and better faith knit them together in the bonds of amity and good-will! May there always be peace on earth and good-will among men.

*January 6, 1878.*

SMALL THINGS.

IN my ambition to promote great reforms, I have, O Lord, forgotten smaller duties and neglected the smaller sins of my life. My attention and interest are fixed upon important matters affecting the welfare of nations. My heart is busy with national reform movements, and has neither time nor inclination to attend to its own reformation. Help me, Lord, to attend to the minutest things of life and to remove every little blot on my character. Teach me to be anxious about all the details of daily duty, and make me mindful of all the relationships which bind me to those around me. Great God, my Salvation depends no less upon little things than upon great movements. May I believe that nothing is too small for my concern which Thou dicteatest for my performance, and that nothing is too trivial, which Thou commandest me to eschew.

---

TEACHER.

FATHER, Thy child is tired of receiving advice from those around. From the earliest days of my religious life I have been accustomed to receive enlightenment and inspiration beneath Thy heavenly throne. Thy voice has taught me religion and ethics through faith and conscience, and other voices therefore seem altogether foreign and unintelligible to me. O Lord, Thou knowest I have always been a pupil in thy school, and acknowledge no other master but Thee. Let none come to teach me, for I shall be misled if I trust earthly teachers. Be Thou my Bible and my Veda. Be Thou my only guide and instructor for time and eternity.

---

## FLOWERS.

SEE Thee smiling in the sweet Jessamine I hold in my hand. Father, bless me.  
I bless Thee, child. Love and honor each flower in my garden.

---

## MISSIONARY VOCATION.

GOD, I wish to be a missionary of Thy Holy Church. Let Thy hand ordain me.  
Not yet child, Thou art not yet fit for that sacred vocation. Wait till I call Thee.

*January 13, 1878.*

REACTION.

WHY this-reaction, Lord? Is it because I went too far in the direction of spirituality and asceticism that I am now running with frightful speed towards worldliness and carnality? Is it because I saw too much of the dazzling light of heaven that I feel so miserably blind now? Almighty God, I foolishly went beyond my depth. I soared too high; and have fallen too low. Save me, Father; save this ambitious and self-deluded sinner from flightiness and pride. May I never boastfully risk my strength and devotion in hard experiments to which I am unequal. Lord, teach me humility.

---

THE WINNOWING FAN.

MAJESTIC Reality, I see with fear and awe the winnowing fan in Thy hand, which Thou art using to purge Thy church of unworthy elements. Who shall stand? Who shall be cast away? None knows. The ultimate result of this process of winnowing who can predict; the heart trembles as it looks upon the ordeal. Father, what shall become of me? Grant, Good God, that I may not be gathered with the wicked and the unclean outcasts, but that I may find a place, however humble, among Thy obedient and trustful servants. May not the high wind that is blowing drive me away from Thy presence! Lord, help me to survive the troubles and trials of the day.

---

RESPECTFUL DISTANCE.

FATHER, in respectful distance is my salvation.  
Therefore do not allow me, dear God, to come too near to Thy throne.

Child, neither too far nor too near. Stand there.  
That is Thy appointed place.

---

## FORGIVENESS.

WORD, having been long under Thy teaching and influence, I am beginning to love mine enemy, however imperfectly, and I feel joy in forgiveness. How sweet to think of Thy condescending love towards Thine enemies.

I bless Thee, child. May forgiving love take root in Thy heart. Follow that great prophet who said,—turn the right cheek to him who strikes the left.

---

## SPIRITUAL TREASURES.

FATHER, why hast Thou taken away all my earthly possessions?

Because I wish to draw Thy heart towards spiritual treasures.

---

## SERENITY.

GOOD God, why hast thou made my heart so happy and serene in spite of outward troubles?

*January 28, 1877.*

MY HUMILIATION.

THE humiliation and pain that raiseth thee before thy fellow-men thou hast undertaken to bear, but the least humiliation that thou fearest would degrade thee before the world mortifies and makes thee angry. O my heart, humbly submit to the position which is made for thee by the Unseen Hand, and if thou canst not win a position here, thou wilt have one in a better land. O Thou, who hast blessed me so unceasingly, if Thou dost smite me now and then in the midst of my pride, give me the patience and the grace to submit to the blow. Lord, let me court the degradation that brings me near to Thee.

*February 4, 1877.*

CONDUCT TOWARDS SUPERIORS AND INFERIORS ?

THE meanness of some natures shows itself in dealing with their inferiors, and the meanness of others with their superiors. Some flatter their superiors, and ill-treat their equals and inferiors; others treat their inferiors with gentleness and consideration, but are violent to those above them. Show me the man who is good and sweet to his fellow-beings in all conditions of life. When, O my Father, will my conduct be equally considerate and sweet to all men? I would honour and love the superiority of those above me. I would respect and love the good parts of those who are my equals and inferiors. I would give and receive sweetness in all circumstances.

made me proud, and civilization has taught me false equality. When I approach an elder I feel no solemnity, and in his company I realise no sanctifying influence. Why is this, O my God? Thy devotees are not ordinary men. Good men are precious treasures designed by Thee to enrich our souls. May I honour them as such, and whensoever I go, to see them, may I previously fit my heart by prayer and humility to profit by their instruction and influence.

---

A DELUSION.

I HAVE strangely got into the habit, O my God, of crediting Thee with all my ideas and plans. I, as Thy servant, ought to follow only Thy commandments, forsaking all that pleases me and adopting whatsoever is agreeable to Thee. But instead of doing this, I strive to follow my own plan and schemes and then ascribe to Thee their authorship. Having come so far in the path of religion, I feel it a humiliation to believe that I am carrying out my own wishes. I would fain believe that in all my doings I only follow Thy leading, and I feel glad when people give me credit for obeying Thy will and sacrificing my own. But as self-sacrifice is a hard thing, and I am carried away by my own ideas, feelings and tastes, all that I can do is to make myself and others believe, that every thing I do is the Lord's doing and that all my purposes are divine purposes. Thus errors and vices in my life become sacred in my estimation in the course of time with the imaginary imprimatur of Thy seal. Lord, deliver me from this delusion.



Because the heart in which I dwell must be  
tranquil and cheerful, or it suits me not.

---

*January 20, 1878*

## POETRY.

**T**HIS dull prosaic life suits me not, O Lord. Send  
me, Father, heaven's poetry.

Ask the flower and the zephyr and the moon to  
inspire thee, and the more thou shalt commune with  
them the more poetical will thy life be.

---

## SELF-ABNEGATION.

**D**O not rejoice, Lord, for I find that it is my  
hand that has got hold of Thine. Then shall I  
rejoice when Thy Almighty hand shall hold fast my  
feeble hand never to let it go.

So shall it be when Thou hast completely cast  
away pride and self-sufficiency.

---

## GOOD MEN.

**L**ORD, I know not how to honour and love  
good men. I know not how to enjoy their com-  
pany. My forefathers practised intercourse with good  
and devout men as a duty, and they educated them-  
selves for holy company. Modern enlightenment has

the worship and actions of other men. My whole character is thus becoming artificial. My nature remains uncultivated, and my wants are removed. O my God, make me thoroughly natural, and my prayers and practices real. May I regard with reverence my superiors, mark their lives and views, and adapt them to my nature in a simple and hearty manner.

---

THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN.

**Y**ET THOROUGHLY degraded and vile, I crawl into the scene of Thy festival. Lord, cast upon me a glance of Thy mercy, and lift me up. I come from a long exile. Thy lost wandering prodigal, I come from solitude and absence, in rags and humbleness I come with the warm hope of acceptance. Cause me not to be disappointed and down-cast, but approach me in Thy smiling forgiveness and grace, take me to Thy bosom, and keep me with Thee evermore in loyalty and undying and ever-increasing service. Cause Thy festival to carry me one step forward in the path of life, and may that step bring me nearer home, my ever-lasting home.

---

*February 3, 1878.*

A PRESENT HEAVEN

**F**ATHER I am one of those impatient children of Thine who cannot depend upon mere promises. It is not the hope of an uncertain future

heaven but a present heaven that I implore Thee to vouchsafe. I will not go away with a mere promise but I will remain prostrate at Thy feet till Thy redeeming grace creates in me a small heaven amidst the things of this world. Give me cash, O Lord, out of Thy inexhaustible treasury, and do not send me away I beseech Thee, with a mere promissary note.

---

VIRTUE EMBODIED.

VEILED as Supreme Virtue, Thou reignest in the world. What place is there, and what race of men that do not bear the impress of Thy Virtue; let me recognize Thee, and worship Thee as Thy Sole Virtue and only Morality. Thou hast no name, Thy name is *Dharma*; Thou hast no body, Thy only body is the pure, the true, the lovable in all things. Thus, veiled everywhere and amidst all Thou art, O Thou Spirit of Virtue and Morality, descend and dwell in this coarse body of flesh and blood. In my habits, words, in my whole manhood manifest Thy virtue. In the morning, noonday, and even-time cause me to practise the spirit of Thy virtue.

---

THE VIGIL.

EVERY day, my Father, the world appears to me to be more and more formidable. In former days it came as a robber in the open day-light, but now it comes as a secret thief to rob me of all the treasures of my heart. It comes like a friend and

treacherously takes away my virtue. I get no time to call Thee to ask Thy help. I know not that the enemy is in the house. But as I awake in the morning I discover what I most prized is gone. Deliver me from the secret ravages of this treacherous world. Always warn me, and always watch me, so that I may not be taken unawares, and deprived of what is most valuable in my character.

---

EVER ALERT.

**O** Lord, excite my zeal and kindle the flame of holy enthusiasm in this torpid heart. I am subject to fits of temporary excitement and my weak and fainting soul is always apt to sink into lethargy as soon as exciting causes disappear. As the fire-worshipper always keeps fire burning in his temple, may I always through Thy grace keep alive the fire of living faith in the sanctuary of my soul! Grant that I may never be found deficient in energy or slow to do my duty.

---

FAMILY WORSHIP

**THOU** hast commanded me, Master, to form a holy family and live together with my wife and children in Thy service. This I have not done. I have tried to worship and serve Thee singly, O my God, leaving all those who are near and dear to me to take care of themselves. Deliver me from such selfishness, and help me to establish Thy altar in

my home, so that all the members of the household may joyfully surround Thy feet and serve Thee together.

---

## GIFTS ABUNDANT.

W<sup>H</sup>EN Thou not only givest me, O God, more than I want, but Thou givest me joy and riches when I beg poverty and privation at Thy door. Convinced of the hollowness of the world I have asked Thee Merciful Lord, to make me poor and humble, and lead me to lowliness through self-mortification. But Thou hast marvellously and mysteriously rewarded Thy poor servant with abundance. Truly Thou art the guardian of the poor and the fatherless. Truly, my God, Thou art the treasure of the ascetic.

---

## THE HIDDEN RIVER.

W<sup>H</sup>ERE is, they say, a deep and hidden river in the heart in which the devotee lies immersed in peace and blessedness unspeakable. Where is it, O God?

Show me that river and help me to dive deep into its pure and sweet waters.

*February 10, 1878*

THE FULLEST MEASURE.

**M**Y merciful Father, let me do the full measure of my work. Call out all my faculties one by one in Thy service. Bring out of me all that I am capable of, even to the last and utmost extremity. Father, let me not die with the painful consciousness that my secret power in me remains unused or undeveloped, and that I could have done anything which I have left undone. The tree bears its fullest harvest of fruits, the flower sends out all its incense of fragrance and beauty, let my soul give unto Thee all that lies in it of devotion and service before I depart from the world.

SITTING IN JUDGMENT

**B**EHAVIOUR of the world, the judgment-seat belongs to Thee alone, and I must stand in the place for convicts. I have so much to answer for my own misdoings, that I have neither the wish nor the time to judge my fellow-men. O Thou all-seeing One, behold how guilty and contemptible I look in my own eye. It is not fit that I should sit in judgment over my equals, and far less over my superiors. Do Thou judge the world, because Thou alone art wise and sinless. To separate falsehood from truth, religion from worldliness, human weakness from Divine impulse belongeth to Thee. To me belongeth the humble duty to be chantable, honest, compassionate and meek, and follow with faith and wonder the

leadings of Thy hand in events which I am too simple and sinful to understand.

---

SELF-LOVE.

**M**Y God, the frail beaten vessel of my self-love only craves to be sunk. The storm which others raise beats on my head, because I would assert my honor and independence when I should be silent. There are thorns above and thorns below, and everything is a stumbling block when my too prominent self keeps tossing on the sea of things. When I am out of reach in Thee, what will agitate me or break the peace of my mind? Lord, it is my self-love that stumbles against every obstacle, and is pained for nothing. Relieve me from myself, I seek no other relief.

---

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

**G**IVE me the right attitude of heart to my brother. I do not believe in much speaking, or in silence. Let me approach him with the proper feeling of love and confidence, of honor and sympathy, and Thou wilt vindicate my conduct against all apparent disadvantages.

---

*February 17, 1878.*

## ASPIRATIONS UNREALISED.

**M**Y aspirations, O Thou All-knowing God, are deeper and stronger than what this poor frame can bear. Behold my powers are not equal to my objects. But Thou knowest that the influx of Thy spirit gives one a giant's power and makes the secret longing of my soul uncontrollable. Lord, what Thou hast given me to hope wilt Thou not fulfil? The great longings that came from Thee are not destined to disappoint me. The blossoms that Thy sweet breath call out shall yet bear their harvest. I look to Thee, gird me with Thy great strength, lead me on with Thy hope, bear Thou up my body and mind that I may accomplish the purposes which Thou dost describe in my spirit so often and so unmistakably.

---

LIKE THE MOUNTAIN.

**T**HE calm, quiet strength of simple manliness that comes from unswerving faith in thee I ask of my Master. I am lowly enough, but with this lowliness, combine the loftiness that rightfully belongeth to Thy true servant. I pray unto Thee that I may remain lowly like the grass that is trodden under foot, but make me firm, enduring and aspiring like the mountain that pierces the sky in its everlasting strength.



## THY FRIENDSHIP.

ETERNAL friendship, infinite embodiment of all that is good, pure and loving, Thy glowing personality overflows my heart and makes it a heaven. What can I lack when I am with thee! What fear is there when the confidence of Thy nearness and reality inspires me? What is it I can ask that Thou wilt not give, and how can I ask anything amiss when I look up to the holiness of Thy countenance? The blessedness of having Thy eternal friendship is all that I seek and live for.

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*March 3, 1878.*

## THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE SPIRIT.

THE sky that was rent by the storm, is still, blue, and bright, the heart that was torn with passion and sin, is now calm in thy communion, O God, and bright and pure. Father let this be the atmosphere of my being always. May Thy presence be always the complexion of my soul, and the sweetness of my nature.

---

## BE MY GUARDIAN.

KNOW my God, Thou art not like man, yet make Thy august personality as distinct to me as a man's, as assuring and as companionable. Be to me as one whom I may feel at my side in the difficult



*January 27, 1878.*

## THE SONG OF DEVOTEES.

WORD, how sweet it is to hear when holy and godly men sing Thy glorious name with enthusiasm. It calls to mind what the blessed enjoy in heaven. Joyful is Thy name, but doubly joyful it is when good men, devoted to Thee, utter it with faith and sincerity. I beseech Thee that at all seasons, especially in seasons of sorrow and dryness, I may come to the neighbourhood of pious and devoted men and eagerly accept their blessed witness to awaken and inspire me.

---

## LIFE AND FAITH.

THEORY I do not want, fine philosophical speculations I do not want, give me, O my God, sane reconciliation between my life and faith. It is good that I should at once begin to carry out Thy commandments fully and fairly, that I should practically become what I internally feel to be right and good.

---

## IMITATION.

BEING always in the company of men who are superior to me in life and views I have fallen into the unfortunate habit of imitation in my religious life. O my Father, I do not worship Thee as my nature and my own wants require, but borrow